

Victim's family hurl themselves at millionaire after Old Bailey verdict

Court uproar as Bonham cleared of death crash

By Carol Midgley

A MILLIONAIRE auctioneer had to be led to safety from an Old Bailey dock amid uproar yesterday after being cleared of causing the death of a charity worker by dangerous driving. Nicholas Bonham, a friend of the Prince of Wales, appeared stunned as the son and daughter of Eric Franklin, 59, hurled themselves at the dock, screaming "You killed our dad".

Police were called to quell the disturbance as Mr Franklin's daughter ran from her seat in the public gallery, shouting "Scum, upper class scum. Bastards like him don't get justice".

Bonham, 47, deputy chairman of the Knightsbridge-based auctioneers, was fined £500 and disqualified for 12 months for careless driving, which he had admitted. It took six dock guards backed by police officers to escort him to safety.

Mr Franklin died after being struck by a BMW motorcycle ridden by Bonham as he walked across a pedestrian crossing on September 7 last year. He never regained consciousness after the accident in Battersea, southwest London, near the charity shop

where he worked, and died two days later in hospital from skull and brain injuries.

Bonham was doing approximately 30mph, having overtaken two cars which braked to a standstill to allow Mr Franklin, wearing a trilby and carrying a black holdall, to cross. Bonham, who began riding motorcycles at 16, told the court: "I didn't see Mr Franklin at all. He was obviously there, I am sorry."

Yesterday Mr Franklin's son, Steve, tried to get into the dock, shouting: "You are going to die" after Bonham was sentenced. His sister was helped from court, but lay down at the entrance in hysterics. Before he was escorted from court, Steve Franklin added: "We are the lower classes. The likes of us would be locked up."

The daughter had struggled with dock officers for several moments in an attempt to get to Bonham — who was sitting with his head in his hands. She shouted: "You killed my Dad and he was our only parent," then pleaded, "I just want to talk to him" before being led away by guards. One told her: "He's not worth it love." Bonham, as any

defendant not jailed, would normally have walked out of the dock, into court and then left the building. But because of the reaction to the jury's verdict he was directed out through the cell area.

Outside the court, Bonham, obviously shaken, said: "The whole thing has been a tragic accident and I am distraught at what happened. I think the result is absolutely right and I am pleased for that. But I am very sad for the Franklin family and I know what they are going through."

Judge Paul Collins had told Bonham that he sentenced on the basis he had been acquitted of causing death by dangerous driving but had admitted from the outset that he drove without care and attention. He said he bore in mind the "precise nature" of the charge.

"I cannot attempt to measure the value of life which has been lost by the result of your driving without due care and attention. That would be quite wrong on a charge of driving without due care and attention," the judge said.

But he added it was a bad case of careless driving and Bonham's response to the



Bonham, a friend of the Prince of Wales, leaving court after being led to safety

possibility of a pedestrian on the crossing was "quite inadequate". He took into account Bonham's "excellent character and that you showed remorse from the moment the impact took place".

Mr Franklin, a retired lorry driver and father of four, had worked voluntarily at a Sue Ryder charity shop. He had

eleven grandchildren and was understood to have been planning to move to Somerset.

Timothy Langdale, QC, for the defence, said: "This is something that has caused him considerable anxiety and distress since it happened and as a result not only does he now find he has to take sleeping pills but his hair has

gone rather greyer than it was."

Bonham, who also numbers Prince Edward among his friends, lives in Battersea with his Australian wife Kay, a former model, and daughters Jessica and Katie and has been deputy chairman of the family famous auction house since 1987.

Parents of Allitt victims attack payout offer

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

FAMILIES whose children were killed or injured by the nurse Beverly Allitt condemned a £500,000 compensation offer yesterday. They must accept the money within a fortnight or lose it.

All 22 parents have to agree to the ex-gratia offer or face a long battle through the courts against Lincolnshire Health Authority. Those who feel they have the strongest claims fear they will be under intolerable pressure to accept the deal in case the rest end up with nothing. If the money was split equally, each family would get just over £40,000.

The new deal is an attempt by health chiefs to persuade ten of the parents to drop their court claims to be compensated for post-traumatic stress. It has taken three years for the offer to be made and it comes only three weeks after the Trent Regional Health Authority was abolished and replaced by Lincolnshire.

Alan Davidson, whose son Michael was left with psychiatric problems after an attack by Allitt, said: "I think it's a bit late in coming. If one family turns it down, the whole lot falls."

There have already been compensation payments for most of the four children murdered and nine attacked by Allitt, ranging from £10,000 to £1 million and from injury to loss of life. Some of the mentally injured have received interim payments un-

til the full damage can be assessed when they are older.

The £500,000 is Lincolnshire's fighting fund in case the families, who receive legal aid, refuse to drop their pursuit of compensation. For that reason, it is available only if they all drop their claims.

If they accept the money, they will have two months to negotiate how it will be split. Each parent will have to be diagnosed as suffering post-traumatic stress to receive compensation.

Peter Phillips, from Grantham, whose daughter Becky died and her twin Katy, now five, suffered serious brain damage, said: "We wouldn't accept an equal amount because we have suffered a double trauma, but at the moment we just don't know how they plan to divide the money. In order to qualify, the families must all have been within the hospital or grounds within 30 minutes of Allitt attacking the children."

Paul Paxton, solicitor for Mr Phillips, said: "The real concern is that the parents who have got better claims are under a lot of emotional pressure to sign. My clients are very concerned that, after all these years, they are faced with having to make a decision within 14 days."

Allitt is serving 13 life sentences in a top-security hospital for the attacks on Ward 4 of Grantham and Kesteven Hospital in 1991.

Stalker woman made up her story say detectives

By Stewart Tandler

POLICE said yesterday that a woman who claimed she was raped by a stalker while under their protection had faked the attack and forged threatening letters from the man. The woman is standing by her story.

Cambridgeshire Police have begun winding up a five-month investigation costing £200,000. David Winsor, the assistant chief constable, said there was no independent evidence for any of the allegations. The woman could be suffering from a mental condition described as dissociated identity disorder, said Mr Winsor: "She was a victim — perhaps of herself."

The police investigation began when the alleged victim, a senior sales official for a magazine publisher, claimed she was being harassed by a man called Chuck. She produced letters from him and claimed he was calling her. Police placed a camera outside her flat in a village near Huntingdon and gave her recording equipment.

In January, she claimed the stalker had got into her home, raped her and fled. The tape from the camera had been wrenched out and burnt.

The bill for investigating her allegations included the cost of a team of up to 40 detectives, a special computer system, a visit to Holland to check part of her movements, national appeals, and the aid of a specialist in preparing psychological profiles of offenders. Protection cost £30,000. Police took 286 statements and followed up more than 1,000 possible leads.

Mr Winsor said yesterday that there was no evidence



Picture of a wanted man issued by police during the investigation. It is thought he never existed

that "Chuck" ever existed. There were increasing inconsistencies, and the woman some history of mental problems.

The letters from "Chuck" are thought to have been written by her. There was never any proof that anyone had actually rung and threatened her.

Mr Winsor said the Crown Prosecution Service considered there was a *prima facie* case against the 33-year-old woman for wasting police time, but they did not believe they would get a conviction. Police felt vindicated over attacks alleging they had failed to protect the woman.

The woman, who is separated from her husband and three children, has been housed on an RAF base during the investigation. From there, she said yesterday that she had not lied and maintained her story was true.

She is expected to move from the base in the next few days. Police expect her to receive medical help, and wel-

fare agencies have also been alerted. Her employers in Hertfordshire said they had no comment to make about the case. The woman has been working part-time since the investigation into the rape began in January.

In the tiny village where she lived, a number of villagers claimed they always thought the story had been made up, and others were angry that fear of serious crime had intruded on their lives.

One woman said: "Until this happened, we let our daughter cycle to the next village. After the rape story, we always drove her." Another woman said: "It was nasty. There were all these police here. This had always been such a quiet village."

The woman lived in a flat on the edge of the village. Local people were questioned twice by police, who checked 200 inhabitants. One neighbour said: "She owes the village an apology. Elderly people were scared out of their lives. There is no sympathy here."

Railman left job with heavy heart

By A Staff Reporter

A TRAIN driver who weighs at least 20 stone has complained that he was squeezed out of the job he loved because of his weight.

Bob Christie, 36, was told to lose weight because he could not move around in his cab easily. Loadhaul, the national rail freight company, also feared that his bulk would make him too slow to seek help in an emergency.

Mr Christie, who is a magistrate in his home city of Sunderland, was given a year's paid leave to slim down and Loadhaul offered to sponsor him through a slimming course. But he was even heavier when he was due to return to work.

The driver said he had agreed to take redundancy because he feared that he would be sacked. Yesterday he accused Loadhaul of being "fatist". Mr Christie, 36, a bachelor who is now unem-

ployed, said: "I loved the job and I had a unique view of the countryside, it was wonderful. I miss the banter with the lads as well."

Mr Christie admits to being "over 20 stone" but refuses to reveal his full weight, thought to be nearer 25 stone.

"Loadhaul said I could not do my job but never attempted to test me properly. My size has never impaired my ability to drive a train, which does not actually require a lot of physical effort," he said.

"It is not beer that causes me trouble, I rarely drink. I like eating and eat too much junk food like Chinese takeaways. On the railways you can start at any hour of the day and it is more convenient to buy burgers and takeaways because you never know when you will be getting home."

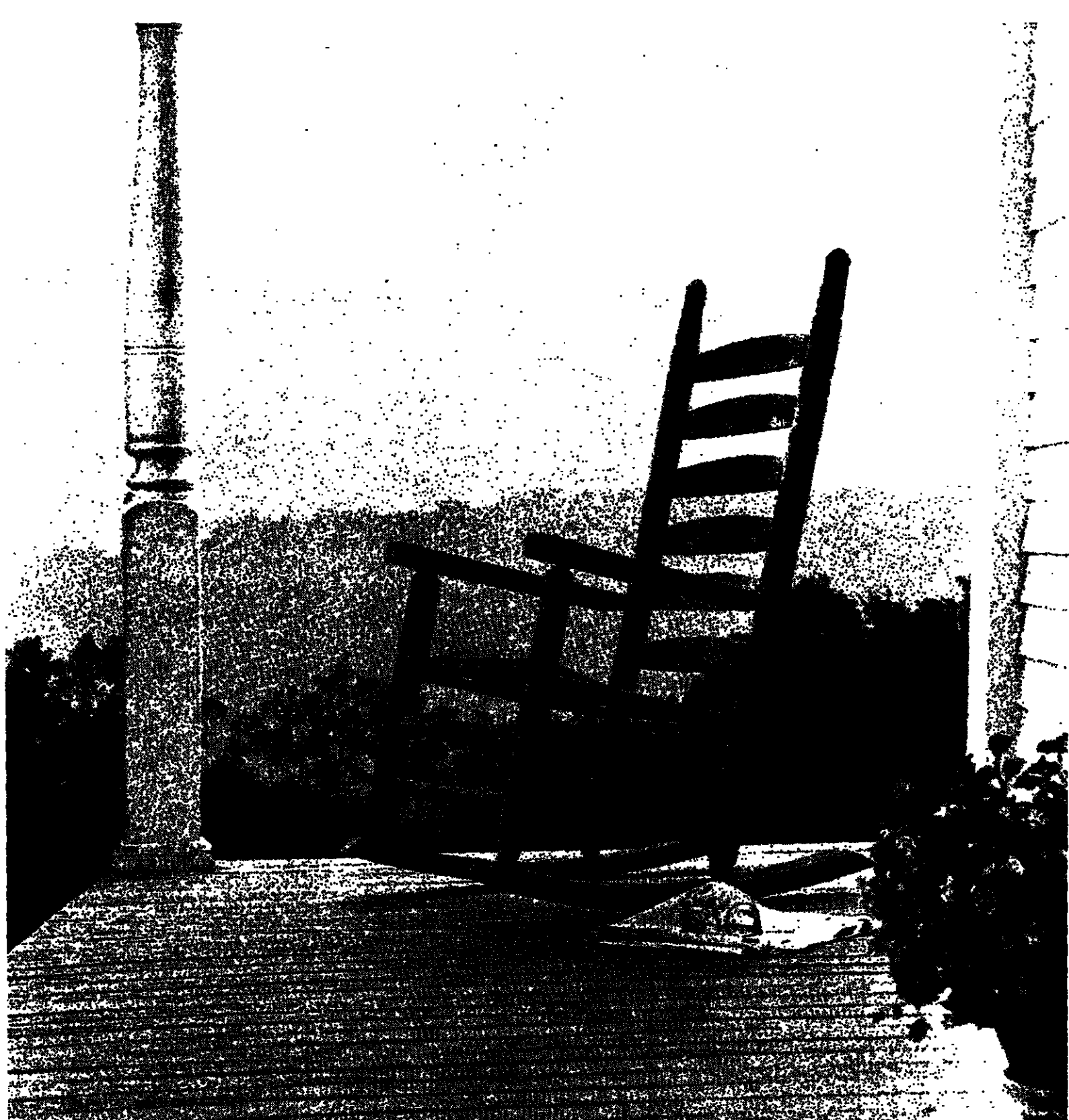
"They gave me a year off to try to sort myself out. During



Christie was given year off to lose weight

that time I put more weight on. I was under a lot of pressure and couldn't slim. If I had still been at work I would have been more active and it would have been easier for me."

Loadhaul said it had no rules against fat people: fitness, not fatness, was the concern. "Rules were issued by Railtrack. A train driver has to be fit and healthy to make sure all safety requirements are met. We have bent over backwards to try to help him to retain a job."



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Architects deplore V&A's 'exploding' glass extension

BY MARCUS FINNEY AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Victoria and Albert Museum is to have an "exploding" glass extension seven storeys high. Intended as London's answer to the Louvre pyramid, it will fill the courtyard at the side of the museum with a giant spiral and change the capital's skyline.



Libeskind: loves V&A's 'labyrinthine feel'

A Polish outsider beat Britain's top architects in the competition to design the £42 million structure, which was variously described yesterday as "hideous" and "a potential landmark".

As the oddly-angled extension and its architect, Daniel Libeskind, were unveiled, it was also announced that from October the V&A will replace its voluntary donation policy with an admission charge "in the region of £5".

one side, so why not this on the other?" The Exhibition Road extension, which is still at the "conceptual design" stage, will be the subject of a £30 million bid for National Lottery cash. It will require planning permission from Kensington and Chelsea council and is likely to face a public inquiry by the Environment Secretary.

Mr Libeskind said: "I love the labyrinthine feel of the V&A, and we will be opening new routes through the museum, linking with the Italian art galleries at ground level, the 20th century galleries at second level, and research facilities above. A 1,000 square metre exhibition hall will be introduced beneath the Pirelli Garden."



The new extension is equivalent to seven storeys in height and would fill the boiler house yard, below

structurally quite simple with sheer stressed walls leaving the interior free of any columns." Sophisticated engineering techniques and computer-aided drawing systems enabled architects and engineers to produce complex geometric shapes made of repeating parts.

Sir Michael Hopkins, a runner-up in the competition, said: "The brief meant filling the boiler house yard with seven or eight storeys, wall to wall. I felt something more modest, a little jewel, was needed."

Sir Hugh Leggatt, secretary of Heritage in Danger and a former member of the Museums and Galleries Commission, said: "It is overpowering, forbidding and oppressive."

John Martin Robinson, the architectural historian, commented: "This reinforces one's worst fears about the lottery, encouraging unnecessary and undesirable buildings and ruining fine architecture in the process."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Leading law firm cleared of negligence

Britain's biggest firm of solicitors was cleared of negligence in a High Court case brought by a wealthy old Etonian that could cost the taxpayer up to £200,000.

Mr Justice Parker dismissed a £1 million claim by Dominic Truett, who was on legal aid, that Clifford Chance was at fault in not ensuring that multi-millionaire Eric Hopton finalised his will. Mr Truett, 22, of central London, was to receive £50,000 in the will.

Spoils of war

Soldiers who have returned from operations with illegal "war trophy" weapons will be urged to hand them in during a three-week amnesty next month. Weapons smuggled home have included grenades, handguns and a hand-held rocket launcher.

Men shot in car

A passenger in a parked car was shot dead and two other occupants injured when a man opened fire from a passing vehicle in Heston, west London. One of the wounded has serious back injuries. Two men are being questioned by Hounslow police.

Post waste

Martin and Alex Squance, of Farnon, Nottinghamshire, discovered that the Royal Mail had burnt or returned a month's post because the new front gate opened outwards. The Royal Mail said it was hard to open the gate without damaging the gatepost.

Opt-out challenge

Staffordshire County Council has been given leave by the High Court to challenge an opt-out by St Benedict Biscop Church of England school in Wombourne. The council says the school misled parents over the benefits of grant-maintained status.

Jethro Tull star ill

Ian Anderson, the Jethro Tull star, is seriously ill in an Australian hospital. Anderson, 48, has a blood clot. The band has cancelled the European tour. Australian and New Zealand legs of their world tour. British dates in November are in doubt.

Degas view

The Degas exhibition private view for Times readers has been over-subscribed and we regret we cannot accept further applications. The coupon referred to on page 40 of today's Magazine as appearing in Weekend has therefore been withdrawn.

Solicitor died of drinking

A SOLICITOR drank herself to death after suffering problems dealing with cases of child abuse and visiting prisoners in jail. Diane Milner, 30, had drunk the equivalent of at least 14 whiskies when she died, an inquest was told.

She was found face down on a sofa by her father after he forced entry into her house. A post-mortem examination found the eight-stone lawyer had acute alcohol poisoning.

Her father, Malcolm, told the York inquest how his daughter developed a drink problem after qualifying as a lawyer: "Until she qualified, she was always a happy and stable girl. But during the time she trained, there were aspects of the job she did not like at all, like child-abuse cases and seeing prisoners in jail."

She had a job with a legal firm in Middlesbrough but lasted only a few weeks there, he added. Her GP, Dr Trevor Julian, said there had been numerous failed attempts to stop her drinking. Verdict: accidental death.

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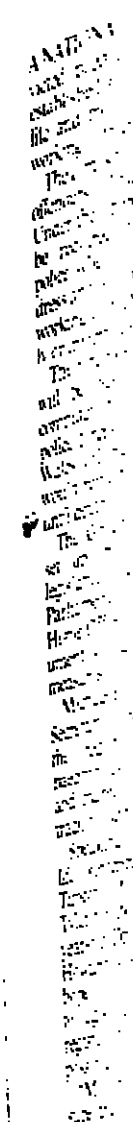
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FASHION TARGET

Paedophiles to be 'marked men' on national register

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A NATIONAL register of convicted paedophiles is to be established to track them for life and try to prevent them working with children.

The aim is to make child sex offenders "marked men". Under the proposals they will be required to inform the police when they change address and will be banned from working with children formally or informally.

Their names and addresses will be held on a central computer to which the 43 police forces in England and Wales will have access. They would remain on the register until death.

The Government hopes to set up the register under legislation to be introduced in Parliament in the autumn. A Home Office consultation document is to give details of the measures.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said yesterday that the register would make paedophiles "marked men" and enable the police to keep track of their movements.

Speaking in the wake of the life sentences imposed on Timothy Morris and Brett Tyler for the murder of nine-year-old Daniel Handley, Mr Howard said: "I very much hope it will be possible for us to legislate to bring such a register into effect as soon as possible."

"My intention is to make sure that the police have all

this information made available to them so that they are in a position to keep an eye on them and also that prospective employers, where the work will bring them into contact with children, should have access to this information."

Ministers have come under pressure from the police to set up a new system to monitor sex offenders closely. At present the National Criminal Intelligence Service has a list of about 4,500 convicted or suspected paedophiles but it does not hold addresses.

Police have complained that too often child sex abusers are able to disappear into the community on release from prison. Only the addresses immediately before custody and immediately after release have to be given to police.

Officers want the courts to have the power to impose a "residency order" on a convicted paedophile, which would require them to keep police informed of their address. The Home Office is also proposing to give courts the power to impose a child protection order with the aim of stopping paedophiles from obtaining any job in which there would be contact with children.

A breach of either order would result in the paedophile being brought back to court for further punishment, possibly imprisonment.

Voluntary organisations, such as the Scouts, and pri-

vate-sector groups such as nurseries would be able to ask police for checks on prospective employees. At present, local authorities and government agencies have access to the criminal records of applicants for jobs that involve children.

Brian Mackenzie, president of the Police Superintendents' Association, welcomed the Home Secretary's announcement. "This has been a concern of the police for some time because there have been some horrific child murders involving paedophile rings. At the moment all we have is intelligence on paedophiles but it does not allow us to keep track of them."

Mr Mackenzie accepted that the register and court orders could not stop paedophiles approaching children but said that they would be a powerful deterrent.

Liberty, the civil rights pressure group, said it had no objection to a register. "Paramount in all we do is the protection of children from paedophiles." But it added: "Our concern is that access to the register is restricted to those agencies that have a proper need to know."

The group said that once an offence was spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, a person's name should be removed from the register. A sentence of 30 months or more is never spent, however.



Robert M. Young, 70, sank his pension into *Caught* after would-be investors rejected its script as too dark

Director's film dream becomes reality

FROM DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT, AT THE CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

A 71-YEAR-OLD director is showing a movie at the Cannes Film Festival that has taken him 23 years to make and has used up all his pension.

Robert M. Young, who has won awards at the Cannes and Venice festivals, sent the script for *Caught* to every investor he could think of, without success. Some never replied and others demanded changes that he was not prepared to make.

"They saw something different from what I saw," said Young, whose 16 previous films include *Rich Kids* and

Nothing But A Man. "I didn't want to compromise."

Last Christmas, when he reached 70 and received his retirement money from the Directors' Guild of America, he decided to risk it all on the film. "My wife has been incredible. She understood that I just had to make it," he said. "Anyway, I will never retire."

Now his decision has paid off. *Caught* has been bought by several big distributors, including some who originally rejected it.

The film tells the story of a young drifter who, taken in to

live with the owners of a Jersey City fish store, becomes a member of their family and breaks up their relationship. Several would-be investors found it too dark, but neither Young nor Edward Pomerantz, who wrote the script, gave up hope.

"I believe that truly great scripts have been left on shelves because it seemed too far-out to someone's tastes," Young said, citing *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* as a project that suffered endless rejection before becoming a box-office success.

Another problem for

Caught was that the investors wanted big-name stars, while Young insisted on two actors who had virtually no experience. Aris Verveen and Steven Schub, a former New York hotel doorman, have since been offered other roles on the strength of their performances in *Caught*.

Both had attended open casting sessions. Verveen spotted a poster advertising the audition in the Actor's Studio in New York, where he worked as a cleaner. "He's dynamite," Young said.

Arts, pages 17, 19

Critic of blood cuts dismissed

A critic of the reorganisation of the national blood transfusion service has been dismissed. Peter Bowell, laboratory manager at the Oxford transfusion centre, had been in the service for 34 years.

As part of his redundancy deal, Mr Bowell agreed to make no public comment but a colleague said the dismissal was a "settling of old scores". Mr Bowell has repeatedly criticised plans to close several centres, including the one at Oxford.

BR prosecuted

British Rail is to be prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive for alleged poor maintenance after an accident near Wood Street station, east London, in September. Seventeen passengers were treated for shock when one train ran into the back of another.

Murder retrial

The Court of Appeal quashed the conviction of Michael Austin, 40, an American jailed for life by Carlisle Crown Court in February last year for murdering David Wilson, a 47-year-old accountant from Withnell, Lancashire, in 1992, and ordered a retrial.

Mugger jailed

A mugger captured by a police decoy was jailed for 4½ years at Knutsford Crown Court, Cheshire. Stephen McCarthy, 25, tried to rob WPC Lesley Price, 26, while she was disguised as an old woman to trap muggers preying on the elderly at Macclesfield.

Pair trick widow

Two men posing as water board officials duped a 75-year-old widow into letting them into her home at Stretford, Birmingham, and stole £1,220 of jewellery and £1,400 in 20p pieces. The woman, who kept the coins in a wardrobe, was not hurt.

Human race

About 200 runners and riders are expected today for a 22-mile race at Llanwrtyd Wells, Powys, in the latest attempt to win £10,000 from the bookmakers William Hill for the first person to outrun a horse. A relay team can win £2,500 for bearing the fastest horse.

Orkney islander charged with Swiss kidnap and robbery

By CAROL MIDDLETON

A CROFTER arrested on a remote Scottish island appeared in court in London yesterday accused of kidnap and robbery offences in Switzerland dating back nearly ten years.

Robert McCheyne Robb, 53, from Stronsay, Orkney, appeared at Bow Street Magistrates Court awaiting extradition on charges of conspiracy to kidnap, conspiracy to rob \$4 million (£2.5 million) and conspiracy to make unwarranted demands for 15 million Swiss francs (£8 million).

Mr Robb, who lives quietly in the Tamaska area of the island with his

wife and daughters aged two years and five weeks, was arrested by detectives and taken to London. The 350 islanders had no idea that Mr Robb, who was released from a ten-year jail sentence imposed in Britain three years ago for false imprisonment, was being sought by Swiss police.

Brian Gibbins, for the prosecution, told the court on behalf of the Swiss Government that Mr Robb was one of three men sought by the Swiss in respect of two matters, the first dating from March 11, 1987. It alleged the three defendants broke into the house of a wealthy

gentleman in Geneva, tied up all the members of the family, held them in the basement, then demanded a ransom of 15 million Swiss francs.

"In the morning there had been bargaining and it was agreed a ransom would be paid. The gentleman was driven by one of these gentlemen to the bank and he paid a ransom of 300,000 Swiss francs."

Mr Gibbins said the second matter dated back to February 1988 when one of the defendants, not Mr Robb, allegedly made contact with a Greek jeweller when in Geneva and duped staff into believing he had a wealthy Arab client who wanted to

buy \$4 million of jewellery. "He was taken to a hotel room where it is alleged Mr Robb and the others found the victim and took the jewellery," he added.

Mr Gibbins said Mr Robb's previous conviction was for the false imprisonment of a man in Kensington, southwest London, in March 1988. Mr Robb forced his victim off the road in his car, took him to another vehicle where he was handcuffed, then drove him to an address where he was shackled.

"It was thought he was going to be a victim in respect of blackmail, though that was never realised," Mr

Gibbins said. Mr Robb's co-defendants, David Fuleihen, 60, an unemployed Israeli of Paddington, west London, and Amir Al Jarrah, 43, of west London, a Syrian part-time cleaner, had appeared at Bow Street Magistrates Court on Thursday. Mr Fuleihen is charged with conspiracy to rob \$4 million and Mr Al Jarrah is charged with conspiracy to make unwarranted demands and conspiracy to kidnap.

Ronald Bartle, the stipendiary magistrate, remanded Mr Robb in custody with the other defendants until May 22. Mr Robb made no application for bail.



Robb: awaiting extradition



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A cast-iron historical fact: pupils from Culford School on the bridge rediscovered after a lake was restored on the former estate of Lord Cornwallis. It is thought to have been built from cannon

Forgotten bridge to history found hidden in school grounds

By JOHN SHAW

AN HISTORIC cast-iron bridge has been found in the grounds of a Suffolk school after years hidden behind reeds and undergrowth. The discovery is so important that English Heritage has given it an immediate Grade I listing.

Culford School, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, was once the country home of Lord Cornwallis,

defeated commander of British forces in the American revolution and later Governor-General in Bengal. The 28-metre bridge dating from 1803 is believed to have been made from cannon captured during his time in India.

It is one of Britain's oldest iron bridges, and one of the few to have been left unmodified. John Richardson, headmaster of the co-educational public school, said it

had been obscured by 70 years of weeds growing out of accumulated sludge and silt on a mile-long lake. "About four years ago, we formed a committee to look at the whole park and we decided to restore the lake. It was a very ambitious project because we had to remove nearly 200,000 tons of silt. Gradually it became a reality. Parents with connections in the farming world lent us diggers and various

machinery. Then we had interest from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the National Rivers Authority and the University of East Anglia.

"We reached about halfway and, as we cleared the lake, we uncovered the bridge as well."

The house dates from the 18th century and the 500-acre park was modified by the landscape gardener Humphrey Repton. The bridge is the earliest known example with

hollow iron ribs and is believed to be the work of Samuel Wyatt, whose brother James made alterations to Culford Hall in the 1790s.

The headmaster added: "Clive Paine, a local historian, recognised that the chap who designed the ironwork for the house had a brother who designed bridges. Mr Paine went to the Patent Office, and lo and behold there was a design for a bridge the same as

ours dated 1804. We got in touch with English Heritage."

Dr Alastair Ward, of English Heritage, said: "It is an exceptionally important find. It is not only one of the first cast-iron bridges but, miraculously, its iron parts have remained unmodified for almost 200 years."

The famous example at Ironbridge, Shropshire, has had extensive repairs through its life. The school, which

has 650 pupils aged from nursery level to 18, has occupied the Grade II*-listed Culford Hall since the estate was sold in 1935. The park was inspected 10 years ago, but the bridge remained undiscovered. It needs £100,000 to complete the lake project, which has had an educational spin-off. Children did research on flora and fauna along the banks and preserved areas of wildlife interest.

We're all Hancocks at heart says Fry the Samaritan

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN FRY, the actor, comedian and writer, spoke yesterday of the sadness of the clown, admitting that last year he had been close to sharing Tony Hancock's fate by committing suicide. Only the devastation he would have caused to family and friends prevented him taking his life after he abandoned the West End play *Cell Mates*.

Fry was speaking at the Groucho club in Soho, where he had attended the show's first-night party but had not shared his "despair" and appalling sense of failure with friends around him. He had subsequently disappeared.

Launching Samaritans' Week '96, he urged others in low spirits to contact the charity for help. "I have promised that if I feel in such

a bad mood again, I will pick up the phone and call them rather than picking up a cross-Channel ferry ticket."

He said: "I regard myself as rich in friends and family. Why does one not ask for help? How can we be so stupid as to ignore the great resource of love and friendship around us?"

Fry said that in his misery he had felt the need to be among strangers. It was then that the Samaritans would have been able to help.

He referred to a survey of public attitudes carried out for the charity which showed that men in general and those under 25 and over 65 were less sympathetic to the suicidal and depressed than were women and the middle-aged.

The British, he said, "can't

bear the idea of talking about our feelings, particularly men. They would rather take their trousers down when drunk than take the shield off their heart for a second."

"I have always been cynical about 'the clown with the tears' — this idea that all funny people are melancholic at heart. I used to take great pride in thinking that one could snap out of it, that we aren't all Tony Hancocks."

But the idea turned out to be true, he said. Many actors and musicians had written to sympathise or to thank him because they had felt like he had. "Laughter can help other people, but not necessarily the laughter-giver."

□ The Samaritans' 24-hour helpline is 0345-90-90-90.



Stephen Fry: had sought the comfort of strangers

Boy who lost arm to chimp wins £132,000

By CAROL MIDGLEY

MATTHEW McDaid, the ten-year-old boy whose left arm was ripped off by a chimp at a zoo owned by John Aspinall, was awarded £132,000 by the High Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Collins said the accident, in 1989, had been horrific for both Matthew and his parents and had caused the boy "very substantial disability", pain and psychological trauma.

But more than £20,000 of the damages will be swallowed up by legal costs partly incurred by the defendant, Howletts & Port Lympne Estates, which had made a pre-trial settlement offer of £150,000.

Because Matthew's advisers had turned down an offer which was more than the final award, he must pay the de-

fence costs since the date of the offer in April. Yesterday, neither Matthew nor his father John, a printer, and mother Frances were in court to hear Michael De Navarro, QC, for the defence, tell the judge about the £150,000 settlement offer, which he had been unaware of before reaching his decision on damages.

The judge said he hoped Matthew would not suffer through having to pay part of the costs. It had not been the boy's decision to turn down the offer, he said.

Chris Elliott, the boy's solicitor, said he expected Matthew to receive about £110,000, which will be in trust until his 18th birthday. Matthew was visiting Port Lympne Zoo, near Hythe, Kent, just before his third birthday when the chimp, named Bustah, reached through the bars of its

cage and seized his arm, biting and pulling it off above the elbow.

Keepers had to use drug darts before they could retrieve the limb, which the animal was using as a weapon to hold them at bay. The boy was flown to hospital by helicopter but the top of his arm was badly mauled and could not be sewn back.

Matthew, of High Point, New Eltham, southeast London, who was ten last Monday, is left with a stump at the shoulder which is too short to make the fitting of an artificial arm possible. He will need at least two more operations and had nightmares until he was six.

His parents have already been awarded £11,000 for trauma after witnessing the attack. Matthew was granted £8,000 for shock.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY
Yorkshire supply and overs

THE water level in the Yorkshire River has risen to a level which is a record for the area. The water is now at a level which is a record for the area. The water is now at a level which is a record for the area.

Church minister hit his children

A CHURCH minister has been charged with the manslaughter of his two children. The children were found dead in their bedrooms. The minister is charged with the manslaughter of his two children.

SPITFIRE DIAMOND JUBILEE DUXFORD
On May 18th the Spitfire Diamond Jubilee will be held at Duxford. The event will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Spitfire. The event will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Spitfire.

مركز من الاصل

Yorkshire Water's supply 'deficient and overstretched'

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE water shortage that affected Yorkshire so badly last summer was a crisis waiting to happen, the chairman of an inquiry said yesterday. Professor John Uff accused Yorkshire Water of failing to ensure it had enough resources to meet demand from its 4.5 million consumers.

Professor Uff, whose inquiry was funded by the water company, also said it had not taken adequate steps in preceding years to meet a possible shortfall: it had spent only 5 per cent of its capital budget on resources. He suggested it look again at the balance between funding, maintaining the water supply and serving its shareholders.

At a press conference to launch his 160-page report, Professor Uff declined to be drawn on who should bear responsibility for the mistakes. However, he suggested the public could draw its own conclusions from the recent early retirement of Trevor Newton, Yorkshire Water's managing director.

In August last year more than 600,000 people in West Yorkshire were close to 24-hour rota cuts as reservoir supplies dwindled in the drought. Health officials warned of serious public health problems, including outbreaks of dysentery and food poisoning, if cuts were introduced. The worst was narrowly averted by a mass tankering operation in which 600 lorries ferried in supplies. It cost the company £47 million.

Professor Uff, an expert in engineering law at King's

College London, said the system for supplying the people of West Yorkshire with water was "overstretched and deficient". The failure could be blamed on Yorkshire Water's unduly optimistic forecast of demand. It indicated it would fall when in fact it was increasing.

"The threat of cut-offs caused great distress and anxiety and demonstrated that cuts in supplies are not acceptable in a modern urban society, except in the most exceptional circumstances. They revealed also a complete absence of any overall emergency plan."

Professor Uff makes a number of recommendations. He suggests the company protects its resources by building a permanent link to the Keilder reservoir in Northumberland. It should drastically reduce the leakage rate: the loss from burst pipes, averaging 37 per

cent of supply, is equivalent to domestic consumption.

He calls for the setting-up of a Public Water Council for Yorkshire to operate for up to a year to improve relations with the public, which hit rock bottom last summer. He suggests Yorkshire Water should pay compensation to local authorities for the expenses they incurred in preparing for the cuts.

Some of the recommendations have been addressed by the company in the months since the drought. It is spending around £200 million to improve its grid system to move water around the county and last month Kevin Bond, the new chairman, announced a scheme to transfer water from Northumberland into Yorkshire by river.

Mr Bond acknowledged that the report was "hard-hitting" and said they would pay close attention to its findings. "We are not looking for public hangings, we are looking forward to ensure the supply is safe in the future. We accept that mistakes have been made in the past."

"We are already in the process of implementing a number of the recommendations made by Professor Uff. We intend having adequate supplies of water for our customers this year, even if the summer and autumn are worse than what we have already experienced."

"We are finding and fixing some 2,500 leaks a month, 33 per cent more than last year. A £12 million scheme is looking at the most effective way of dealing with leaks."



Uff inquiry was funded by the water company

Church minister admits he hit his children with a belt

A CHURCH of Scotland minister regularly beat three of his children with a belt, a court was told yesterday. On one occasion the buckle made his five-year-old daughter's foot bleed.

The Rev Kenneth Walker, 38, meted out his own form of discipline when he lived at the manse in Aberlour, Grampian. At Elgin Sheriff Court he admitted three charges of assaulting the children, aged eight, six and five, by striking them on the feet or legs with a belt in a manner likely to cause suffering or injury.

His wife had been so concerned that she took the children to their GP, who referred them to a consultant paediatrician. Unusually, the sheriff lifted reporting restrictions,

permitting the children to be identified.

Walker, who now lives in Arbroath, away from the family, has offered to give up his post. Procurator Fiscal James Mackay told the court that Walker was striking the three children with the belt between last October and January.

The paediatrician said the children bore no signs of anything more severe than might be expected of children who had been playing. However, she was concerned about the injury to the sole of the five-year-old's foot.

While being interviewed by the paediatrician, one of the girls had said "daddy was always threatening them with the belt", Mr Mackay said. "This goes beyond mere chastisement: it concerned the mother of the children, their family practitioner and a paediatrician consultant."

Lindsay Wood, for the defence, said the family had begun to have difficulties when their fourth child was born two years ago and was found to be suffering from Down's syndrome. In 1994 Walker approached Grampian regional council seeking help for the family. He had had a depressive illness and had spent time in hospital. Mr Wood said Walker was "full of contrition" and had belted the children as a last resort.

Sheriff Noel McPartin ordered psychiatric and social inquiry reports and a psychological assessment. Sentence was deferred until June 13.



JUAN ANTONIO PIZZI

Sticking point: the missing picture of Juan Antonio Pizzi may become a sought-after item in collectors' albums

Football stars shown red card after court rules sticker firm is offside

By ANDREW LONGMORE

MILLIONS of pictures of Euro 96 football stars have had to be withdrawn three weeks before the championship kicks off in a "sticker war" between two rival firms. UK-based Merlin Publishing tried to beat foreign firm Panini to the £10 million market by launching their collection early, but fell foul of a licensing deal. Merlin, which has sold nearly 100 million packets of its Premier League collection over the past year, had to withdraw more than two million Euro 96 stickers from sale and reshoot the

pictures at a cost of nearly £500,000.

The dispute stems from the conflict between the licensing rights for the official Euro 96 logo, which Merlin bought from Licensed Properties International in London, and separate licensing deals made by Panini with national football associations. Under its licence, Panini has the right to sell pictures of players wearing national colours and national emblems.

Merlin, Panini said, had infringed those rights by producing action shots of players in national team strips. Richard Maskell, Panini's manag-

ing director, said the decision to publish the collection was "high-handed" and "arrogant". The court upheld the claim and Merlin was forced to use only head-and-shoulders shots of the players.

In the meantime, Panini, whose European Football Championship collection was launched on April 10, has enjoyed a three-week sales lead, though its hopes of having the lucrative market to itself have been disappointed by the speed of Merlin's relaunch. Mark Hillier, managing director of Merlin UK, said the delay might actually have helped the firm. "With

the Premier League going down to the last day and the FA Cup final, there has been no focus on Euro 96 until now. Now that's all finished, it's Euro 96 big-time and early signs are that our collection is selling very quickly indeed."

Ironically, one casualty of the sticker war may now become a collector's item. The head of Juan Antonio Pizzi of Spain (sticker number 116) was omitted and the closely cropped action shot used instead is expected to become a prize swap in the playground transfer market.

Anderton recalled, page 48



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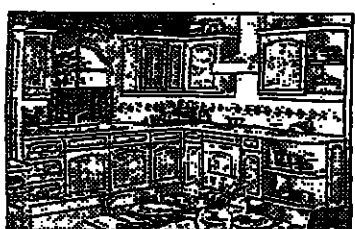
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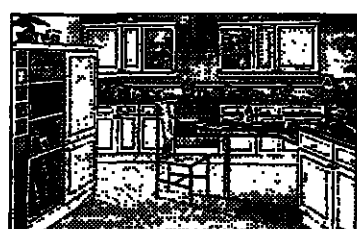
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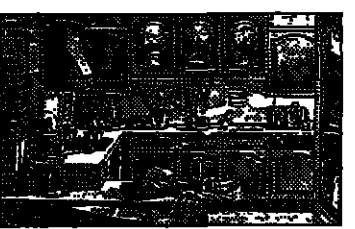
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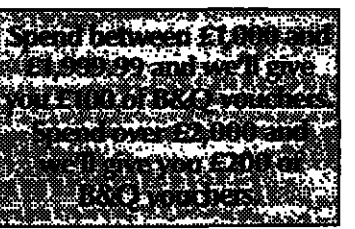
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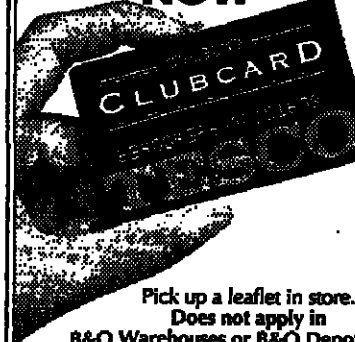
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How heavenly music orchestrates spiritual harmony

The debate over the hymn *Jerusalem* reflects the importance of music and musical tradition in Christian worship. Music is acknowledged to make us feel more spiritually whole — closer to God. But how this comes about is not so easily understood. Music's exploration of dissonance and harmony ties in with a basic insight about God — namely, that He brings order out of chaos. In the Gospels one of the sure signs that the messianic age has come is that the blind receive their sight, the deaf hear, and the lame

walk. Christ, the healer, integrates the disintegrated lives of people such as the madman who lived among the tombs. Thus God is found in the restoration of order and the resolution of dissonance — physical, spiritual and emotional. In Peter Shaffer's play *Amadeus*, the composer Antonio Salieri fears that his rival, Mozart, has a direct line to God. Many others have heard the voice of God in music, including theologians such as the Protestant Karl Barth, and the Roman Catholic Hans Kung. Einstein, hearing Yehudi Menu-

hin play Beethoven, said: "Now I know there is a God in heaven." The primitive bushman of the Kalahari used the bow with which he hunted by day to make music by night; thus the essential tool of his survival was also the source of his music. He concluded that music was as vital as water, food and fire and, I would add, religion. Mozart seemed to have had an intuitive mastery of form, evident in the way his music creates the brilliantly unexpected, while sounding perfectly natural, as if it were meant to be. Hence, perhaps,

Credo

Brian Mountford

the sense that God is revealed, because God is original, unexpected, yet perfect in being. There is a link here too between music and mathematics, not only because music is basically the physics of how sound frequencies inter-relate, but in that many mathematicians have noticed that the

more elegant the shape or "form" of their theory, the more likely it is to be true. This has persuaded some that there is mathematical truth "out there", and therefore to see a common language between science and theology. Then there is the way that music affects the emotions, whether through the rhythm of a rock concert, or the moods of Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony. But how? Have we, for example, learnt to associate minor keys with sadness, or is emotion intrinsic to the music? One explanation is that

dissonance creates a certain tension and anxiety which can only be released by harmonic resolution, and that this is fundamental to the psychology of musical experience. Mozart can express light and dark, joy and sorrow, life and death, so that the light transcends the dark and triumphs over it. This is evident in a work such as his *Requiem*, but also in music with no overt religious intent. Then there is the role of the player. A live performance nearly always has more charisma than a recording. In his poem *The Musi-*

cian, R.S. Thomas compares the effort of the violinist Fritz Kreisler, who "so beautifully suffered/For each of us upon his instrument", with the Crucifixion. What we admire in the discipline and self-giving of the musician connects with the way in which God's love is expressed through the suffering of Christ — and that spiritual experience is all the more powerful for being discovered and not taught.

□ The Rev Brian Mountford is vicar of the University Church, Oxford.

Priest prays she has stomach for the Navy

By Robin Young

THE woman chosen to be the first female Anglican chaplain in the Royal Navy admitted yesterday that she was susceptible to sea sickness, but said it was "all part of the challenge".

The Rev Sally Theakston, 33, at present senior curate in the parish of Putney, south-west London, says farewell to her congregation at All Saints' Church tomorrow and will take up her post as a naval chaplain on June 3. She will be the first woman Anglican to have a chaplaincy in the Armed Forces.

"The only previous connection I have had with the Navy is that the minister in my previous parish had formerly been a naval officer and when I came to Putney I became chaplain to the Sea Cadets," Ms Theakston said.

She was encouraged to apply for the naval chaplaincy by two lay readers at All Saints', Commander Graham Shaw, a retired naval officer, and his wife, Kathleen, formerly a Wren. "Through their daughter-in-law, Surgeon-

Lieutenant Clare Shaw, they arranged for me to spend five days on HMS *Cumberland*, returning from Gibraltar to Devonport after duty in the Adriatic stopping gun-running to Bosnia."

Ms Theakston spent three days with the Admiralty interview board, "taking all the tests a naval officer would have to take, from academic written exams to leadership exercises involving complex problems like bridge building. I am impressed throughout with the Navy. All the people I have met have been friendly and encouraging. Though some may have different views about the desirability of women as priests or women at sea, I have had seven years in a church that was divided over ordination of women but has now come more fully to accept it. I am sure that they will in the Navy, too."

Ms Theakston will spend her first six months in the Navy at HMS *Sultan*, a marine engineering shore establishment near Gosport,

Hampshire. Then she will go to Dartmouth for a training course in "fire-fighting, first aid and all the other things one has to know aboard ship. Part of the attraction of the Navy was that it offers such a variety of establishments one might work in."

Ms Theakston was ordained a deacon in 1989 and was one of the first women priests ordained in South-west diocese in 1994. Much of her work in Putney has involved reviving All Saints', a Victorian church designed by G.E. Street which has 40 stained glass windows by William Morris.

The vicar, the Rev Dr Jonathan Draper, said: "It is largely due to her assiduous hard work that we have reclaimed All Saints' from being almost moribund to having congregations of up to 600 and a junior choir 40-strong."

"Sally is boldly going where no woman has gone before. But she is such an able and outgoing person that I am sure she will flourish."



The Rev Sally Theakston, who is to be the first female Anglican chaplain in the Armed Forces

Methodists fear Toronto blessing may be a curse

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

ELEMENTS of the so-called "Toronto blessing", where born-again Christians bark, laugh, cry and collapse in convulsions, might not be the work of the Holy Spirit and could in fact be the opposite, says a Methodist Church report published today.

It adds that the bizarre charismatic phenomena that originated in Toronto, Canada, and have swept through Britain's evangelical churches in recent months, could also be symptoms of a psychiatric disorder known as dissociation. The report, to be debated at the Methodist Church's annual conference next month, urges extreme caution. It raises concerns about the raucous laughter, growling, barking, other animal sounds and drunken-style behaviour such as "stiff jerking" and falling down that takes place when a congregation is gripped by the blessing.

The report notes that the phenomena are not always spontaneous and congregations are often prepared in advance by their ministers or leaders. Such preparation can involve carpets and cushions provided to cushion those who fall backwards. The report says that this "need not deny the validity of the experience", but there are few scriptural precedents.

It argues that "there are serious theological and pastoral issues that cannot be brushed aside". Of most concern to the Methodist faith and order committee, which examined nearly 300 submissions, were the convulsions experienced at some services.

The report says: "Convulsions, sometimes claimed as a sign of God's blessing, are in fact quite the opposite. Jesus in His ministry delivered people from such things. He did not want them to glory in them."

The Toronto blessing was

first reported in January 1994 at a meeting of the Toronto airport Vineyard Church, where more than 300,000 Christians have since travelled on pilgrimage. Often, on their return, the pilgrims' home congregations begin falling down, weeping, laughing and barking in a ripple effect that has now spread worldwide.

Those involved refer to the blessing as a "refreshing" or renewal, but there is a growing belief in evangelical circles that it may herald a revival as the millennium approaches. Places where the blessing is common in this country include a leading centre of Church of England evangelism, Holy Trinity Brompton in Knightsbridge, southwest London. It is also being manifested regularly in the Queen's Road Baptist Church, Wimbledon, and the Sunderland Christian Centre. Many psy-

chologists believe the blessing is a form of dissociation, where people with a personality split act out of character. These people believe their bizarre actions are God's work, whereas psychiatrists hold that they are the product of the split or dissociated side of their personality. Dissociation is common in ecstatic religions. The whirling dervishes of Muslim cultures are cited in the Methodist report

as an example. Most of the submissions, which came from ministers and lay people, supported the blessing. But some expressed serious concern and told the Methodist committee that the Toronto blessing was demonic or more related to hypnosis than the Holy Spirit.

One group of church stewards said: "The excitement, emotion and general lack of control and self-discipline caused us a great deal of concern." Worshipers who objected reported: "It was stated that this was the way the church was going and if you didn't agree you might as well leave. There was a lot of heartache."

The report says the "fruit of the spirit" is evident in love, especially love for fellow Christians and Christian holiness. "If there has been genuine growth and a closer walk with Christ as a result of the Toronto blessing, then we can be thankful that God is able to bring good out of all situations." But it adds: "In the biblical tradition the experience of prophecy has always been accompanied by a recognition of the danger of false prophecy and the need for discernment."

The report points out that the Toronto airport church where it all began has left its mother fellowship, the association of Vineyard churches, after concern was expressed about "exotic practices that are extra-biblical".

Last week, a woman left her church with a group of supporters and set up her own church at home because she refused to "snort like a pig". She said she had been denied confirmation unless she went on a course where such manifestations took place.

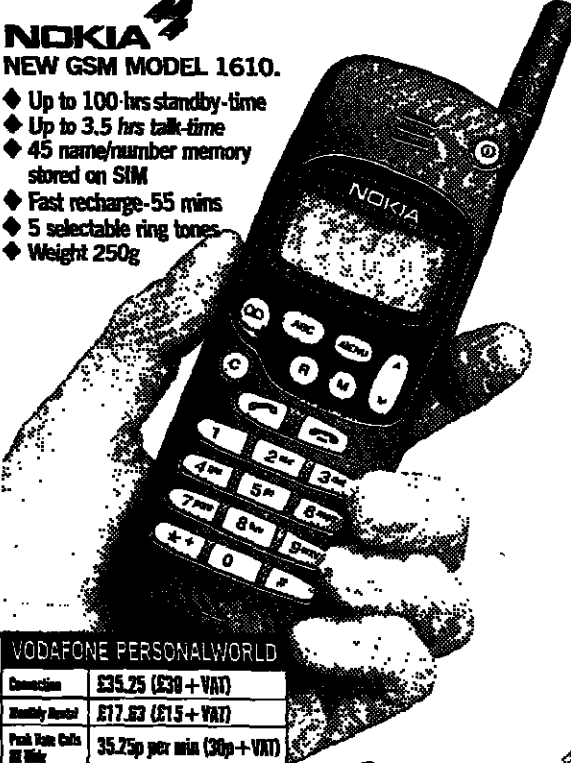
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Prophecy has always been accompanied by a recognition of the danger of false prophecy

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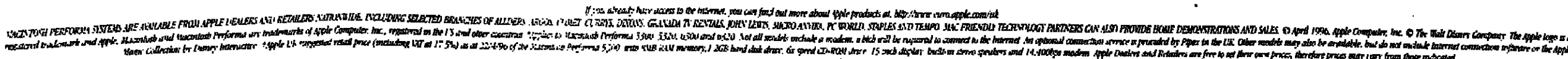
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مكتبة من الأصل



Freed Britons weep at Jakarta funeral of fellow hostage

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN JAKARTA

FOUR British graduates wept for an Indonesian colleague yesterday as he was buried in a cemetery in the eastern suburbs of Jakarta.

While the Indonesian Government provided a military guard of honour and fired a one-volley salute to a "fallen comrade", Cambridge students Anna McIvor, Annette van der Kolk, Daniel Start and William Oates, rescued after four months of captivity in the jungles of Irian Jaya, seemed to distance themselves from the army presence.

Mr Start, 21, held the hand of Miss van der Kolk as the congregation gathered round the coffin, draped with an Indonesian flag, to sing a local Christian hymn. *All his life he gave himself to God.*

Martha Klein, the Dutch hostage who was also rescued in the military operation, collapsed on the ground in sobs before being brought to her feet and comforted by Mark van der Wal, a fellow Dutch hostage.

The British and Dutch hostages were then taken away to be looked after by their respective embassies. They will be debriefed by both embassy staff and Red Cross officials before returning home.

Henri Fournier, Indonesian representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said after meeting the four released Britons and their two Dutch colleagues: "The hostages and their captors lived and survived together for several months, just like one family. They feel as if they have lost their brothers. They grieve equally for all who died, both the rebels and their scientific colleagues."

Mr Start, who like his colleagues was given Indonesian batik shirts for the funeral, stopped briefly to

address journalists after being released from the Gatot Subroto military hospital. He said: "I am too traumatised by what has happened. I do not think I am in the right frame of mind to speak now. We are all very distressed by the deaths of our friends."

They still looked dazed and weak during the funeral, which took place in the heat of the afternoon. Medical checks have revealed that the hostages have lost between 1.5 and 2.5 stones each, were suffering from insomnia, respiratory tract and skin infections.

The funeral for Navy Panekanan, 29, was particularly distressing for Miss McIvor as she saw the attack on Navy and his fellow victim, Yoshias Lasamahu.

Mr Panekanan, 29, of the Jakarta School of Biological Sciences, had been an assistant to the Cambridge University research team studying the wildlife of Lorentz nature reserve in Irian Jaya when the group was seized by the rebels in January.

Mr Panekanan and his colleague were killed by a combination of blows from a machete and poisoned arrows as the Free Papua Movement rebels fled from Indonesian special forces.

His girlfriend, Adinda Saraswati, 25, another of the hostages seized on January 8, attended the funeral in a wheelchair with her right foot bandaged. She was lifted by friends to the open coffin to kiss Mr Panekanan farewell and place a ring on his finger before he was lowered into the grave. They had been due to marry at the end of the expedition.

Miss Saraswati said on state television that her captors had killed her fiancé in front of her as troops closed in.

She said a kidnapper had attacked Mr Panekanan with a machete on Wednesday, as Indonesian Special Forces launched a rescue, and described what happened next.

"I saw he started to hit Navy with the machete and I could only scream 'Why, why' and 'Navy, Navy,'" she said. "Navy said, 'It's not my fault.' Then he said 'Praise the Lord' and fell to the ground. I kept screaming and the killer had his eye on me. Then he saw Markus [another hostage] and then Markus was beaten by many of them."

At the end of the service a lone bugler played a lament, after which relatives and friends laid wreaths on the grave, marked by a simple wooden cross with Navy's name on it.

Later Mr Oates thanked the army for rescuing them. He said: "They brought me some fried rice and I just ate and ate



Martha Klein, right, the Dutch hostage rescued by Indonesian troops, bids farewell to a fellow hostage, Yualita Tanasale

and ate as I had eaten nothing but forest fruits for the last week."

Miss McIvor said that she was grateful to the Indonesian Army and was relieved to be free. Miss Saraswati said: "All the foreigners, except Anna had been taken on ahead. The kidnappers were behind us

when they suddenly turned on Navy and Yoshias. I think they knew that the army was very close and wanted to kill all the Indonesians." She ran away screaming and was soon plucked to safety by the army.

It is unlikely that the freed hostages will go into detail about what happened in those

last few hours in the jungle — at least not until their departure from Indonesia. They had told relatives they were sympathetic to the rebels' independence cause, and Mr Fournier said yesterday: "They had hoped for an entirely different outcome."

It may have appeared to

them that the dice were loaded against their captors, who were armed apparently only with spears and bows and arrows and who put up little resistance against special forces armed with automatic weapons.

Leading article, page 21

MONDAY IN THE TIMES



WIN TICKETS TO ENGLAND v INDIA

Five pairs of tickets to the first one-day game at the Oval to be won

Plus, in 12 pages of sport, Oliver Holt at the Monaco Grand Prix

DIANA: THE VERDICT
What women think of the Princess of Wales



Mr Leung after undergoing surgery to reattach his arm

Hong Kong triads blamed for knife attack on publisher

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE attack this week on Leung Tin-wai, the prominent Hong Kong publisher whose arm was severed by his assailants, has aroused horror and outrage throughout the colony. A £347,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the attackers' arrest.

Chris Patten, the Governor, Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary, and the Police Commissioner joined in condemnation of the attack, which has dominated the news here. What makes the event especially terrifying is the probable involvement of the triads, the colony's pervasive secret societies.

Mr Leung, 55, is in a serious condition and under police guard in Pamela Youde Hospital, where it took several teams of surgeons using micro-surgery 18 hours to sew back his left forearm. It had been hacked off by two well-dressed men who asked for an appointment with Mr Leung late on Wednesday.

He invited them into an interview room of *Weekly Surprise*, his magazine which was launched yesterday, then staff heard screams. The two had drawn knives with 18in blades from their trouser legs and were attacking him. As he raised his arm to defend himself, they cut it off. A security guard who entered the room was stabbed.

Police Commissioner Eddie Hui has expressed "deepest concern" at the attack, and said that a special task force has been set up to find the assailants. It is assumed one of the triads — mafia-style

criminal syndicates — ordered the attack. Mr Leung's magazine carried articles yesterday referring to criminal gangs and, in one on triad activity in a Macau prison, named names.

One of Mr Leung's editors speculated yesterday that this article may have prompted the attack. Naming triad members violates one of Hong Kong's publishing taboos. It is also rumoured that Mr Leung refused to pay a triad "protection" demand.

The triads — with historic links reaching back to the secret societies across the border, some centuries old — are well established in Hong Kong. Originally concerned with prostitution, gambling and drugs, they have branched out into more mundane pursuits such as airport cargo loading, hotel and restaurant supplies, laundry and rubbish removal, and newspaper and magazine distribution.

This last activity may explain why several newsagents and kiosk operators in central Hong Kong yesterday were nervous about stocking Mr Leung's publication, although it was sold out within an hour.

Every significant Hong Kong publisher or editor signed a statement run in most papers yesterday voicing their anger. Senior journalists and publishers together offered a reward of HK\$4 million (£347,000) for the attackers' capture.

Tomorrow journalists will march through central Hong Kong in protest at the attack.



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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook SATURDAY MAY 18 1996

Lloyd's barred from seizing names' awards

BY SARAH BAGNALL

A HIGH COURT judge yesterday barred Lloyd's of London from seizing hundreds of millions of pounds worth of court awards made to litigating names.

Alan Porter, chairman of the Devonshire Names Action Group, said: "The judgment has exposed Lloyd's practice of running roughshod over legal rights when it suits them. They are bully boys and this decision has given them a well-deserved rap on the knuckles."

Names' representatives welcomed the ruling, with some arguing that it could force Lloyd's to bolster its settlement offer to the hardest hit names. Others drew attention to an affidavit by David Rowland, chairman, in which he said that the market's radical reconstruction and renewal plan (R&R) could founder if Lloyd's lost the hearing.

In the affidavit, Mr Rowland said: "The destination of names's litigation recoveries is critical to the completion of R&R." He added that if Lloyd's failed to win the case then "potentially it could be fatal to R&R."

However, yesterday he said that since making the affidavit in March names' financial predicament had improved by a £2.1 billion sweetener and, therefore, his remarks were no longer applicable. Lloyd's said it was disappointed with the ruling by Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, and that it intended to appeal.

Several action group chairmen said that the ruling had no significant implications for R&R. John Mays, chairman of the Merritt Names Action Group, said: "I don't think this is going to make a difference to R&R. The train has left the station and everything that is going to be on board is there."

However, Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Association Working Party, said: "Lloyd's will now have to make significant improvements to the offer to help the hardest hit. They need cash and if Lloyd's wants these names to participate in the offer they will have to offer them cash."

The hearing centred on the legality of changes made in March 1995 to names' premium trust deeds, the legal terms governing an underwriting member's Lloyd's account. The amendments meant Lloyd's could receive litigation recoveries directly from the courts.



Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, was hustled into Nottingham Trent University by police amid violent protests yesterday. Around 200 students had gathered outside a building where Mr Clarke received an honorary degree to reward his contribution to Nottingham PSBR rises, page 26

Gas chief's
protest call

RICHARD GIORDANO, the chairman of British Gas, has written to its 1.7 million shareholders calling for protests against price-control proposals by Ofgas, the industry regulator. In the letters, posted second class at a cost of £400,000, he urges investors to protest directly to Clare Spottiswoode. Executive Voice, page 26

Record £1bn power payout stuns City

BY GEORGE SIVELL

NATIONAL POWER has confirmed plans to pay £1.8 billion of special dividends to shareholders and promised to consider buying back more shares or making further special dividend payments.

In addition to a huge increase in the ordinary dividend, National Power shareholders will receive almost £1.5 billion in payouts for the year, a British corporate record. The special dividend is conditional on the £1.7 billion sale of power stations to Hanson going ahead by July 9.

Shares in National Power, the largest of the privatised electricity generators, soared 31p to close at 547p, as the company implied that ordinary dividends would be increased further by saying that it would consider reducing the amount of cover to the dividends provided by earnings.

Yesterday's announcement was rushed out ahead of Monday's planned release. The special dividend follows an attempt by the Southern Company of America to make a bid for National Power, which was foiled by the Government pledge to maintain its controlling golden share. National Power was also prevented from bidding £2.5 billion for Southern, the UK regional electricity company.

The City was taken aback by the size of National Power's special dividend, which, at £1 a share, compared with the 60p or so expected. The 49 per cent increase in the ordinary total dividend, to 25p a share, was also a surprise. Earnings rose 19 per cent, to 51.9p a share, leaving dividend cover down to 2.3 from a conservative 3.0 a year ago. Debts stand at £376 million, or just 14 per cent of shareholders' funds, although they will rise after the special dividend is paid.

Analysts said the pre-tax profits of £806 million, up 14 per cent, were well ahead of forecasts of £760 million. Forecasts of National Power profits are to be increased to almost £900 million from £845 million for the current year.

Earlier this week, PowerGen, the other large privatised generator, announced a 40 per cent dividend increase and a £400 million share buy-back after its bid for Midlands Electricity was blocked.

Keith Henry, chief executive of National Power, said: "We are committed to delivering continuing real dividend growth and consider further reductions in dividend cover will be appropriate." He added that it had also been decided it would be in shareholders' interests to run with much higher gearing.

John Baker, the chairman, said he believed "great opportunities to grow earnings lie overseas". The company is active in Pakistan and America and is pursuing investments in Turkey, China and India.

BA set to link with American Airlines

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

BRITISH AIRWAYS is believed to be near agreement with American Airlines, the largest US carrier, on a link-up that would create the most powerful combination in the industry, particularly on lucrative transatlantic routes.

The agreement would include plans for "code sharing" and co-operative marketing that would link the computer ticketing systems of the two airlines, a move that would effectively integrate their huge flight networks. A deal may be announced on Monday, when BA unveils its financial results, though it may take longer to agree.

British and US government negotiators are due to meet on Monday to discuss airline alliances as part of wider talks about airline deregulation between the two countries.

An alliance with American would seriously disrupt BA's relationship with USAir, in which it holds a 25 per cent stake. Robert Ayling, BA chief executive, is due to attend a USAir board meeting on Tuesday, when he may say that BA is planning to sell its stake. The investment has not been a success for BA, which has written it down by \$250 million, half its original value.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET		
FT-SE 100	5789.6	(+36.0)
Yield	3.94%	
FT-SE All share	1901.77	(+14.78)
Nikkei	21916.80	(-230.61)
Dow Jones	5676.42	(+41.37)
S&P Composite	668.02	(+3.17)
US DOLLAR		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	8 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
Yen	106 1/2	(106 1/2)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	6 1/8%	(6 1/8%)
Libor long	10 1/8%	(10 1/8%)
Future (4m)		
EURO DOLLAR		
New York	1.5153	(1.5145)
London	1.5157	(1.5117)
DM	2.2132	(2.2231)
FF	7.1241	(7.1851)
FF	1.8961	(1.9026)
Yen	161.63	(161.23)
£ Index	84.4	(84.4)
DOLLAR		
London	1.5275	(1.5318)
DM	5.1780	(5.1850)
FF	1.2542	(1.2551)
Yen	106.25	(106.63)
£ Index	96.8	(97.0)
Tokyo close Yen	106.60	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$17.20	(up)
GOLD		
London close	\$392.15	(\$391.85)
* denotes midday trading price		

Spending blow

Public borrowing went adrift in the first month of the new tax year as government spending overran. In recent months, the main concern has been a hole in tax revenue. The public sector borrowing requirement was £3.3 billion in April.

Facia chiefs face disqualification

BY JASON NISSE

IAN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, has started proceedings to have Stephen Hinchliffe, the flamboyant businessman, and Christopher Harrison, his partner in the Facia retail chain, disqualified as directors.

Mr Lang's action, which may see the duo banned from holding office for up to 15 years, follows a liquidator's report into the collapse two years ago of Boxgrey, a sports pitch-maker known formerly as En-tout-cas. Nearly 600 creditors and 130 staff lost money in the collapse.

Last night, Mr Hinchliffe said: "I have been able, even within the limited time available, to submit a detailed dossier which substantially undermines all the allegations which have been made... I am confident that the proceedings will be dismissed."

This is not the only potential legal action facing Mr Hinchliffe and Mr Harrison, who have built Facia into a 1000-strong retail chain in just

OFT forces Rock to drop penalty

BY ROBERT MILLER

NORTHERN ROCK, the eighth-largest building society and planning to become a £1 billion bank next year, has stopped charging retrospective early redemption penalties worth up to three months' interest on certain mortgage deals after intervention by the Office of Fair Trading.

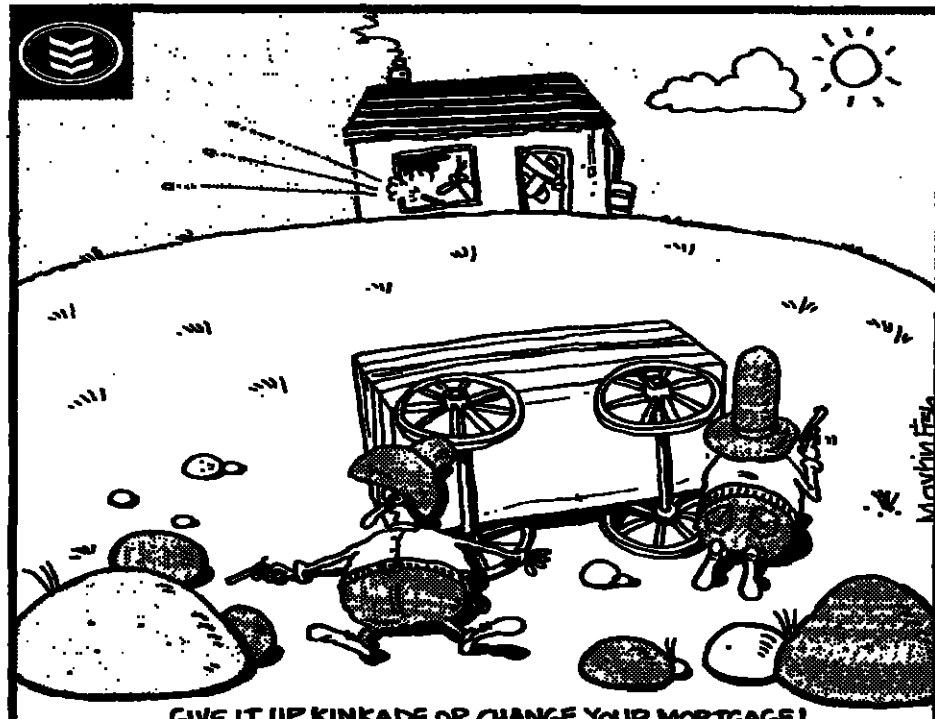
A statement issued by the OFT yesterday said that Northern Rock, whose one million qualifying members stand to gain up to £1,000 worth of free shares when the society converts to stock-market status next year, had assured the OFT that it will remove the unfair term in its home-loans contracts that enabled it to impose the penalty.

Up to 5,000 Northern Rock borrowers had to pay the additional penalty, known as the standard early redemption charge (Serc), on loans which were taken out before December 31 and then redeemed early.

Adam Applegarth, executive director of Northern Rock, said yesterday: "It is never



Hinchliffe: defence dossier



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Shift to consumer is ultimate test of loyalty for Sid

Sid, the legendary small shareholder, was born ten years ago. Created by a clever advertising agency in the run-up to gas privatisation, Sid epitomised the Government's vision of a self-reliant, mass home-owning and share-owning democracy.

On the whole, Sid has not done badly over the ten years since the first great utility privatisations of telecommunications and gas. Popular capitalism has proved enduring, and Sid has remained loyal, even stoical. British Gas still has 1.7 million small shareholders.

However, this loyalty looks like being tested to the limit by the latest act in the long-running saga of utilities privatisation, the introduction of competition and associated regulation. This week, the gas industry regulator, Ofgas, announced new proposals for controlling the prices charged by British Gas Transco, the business that operates the gas pipeline and storage system throughout the country.

In essence, Ofgas is calling for a cut in revenue of more than the total dividend paid last year to British

Gas's 1.7 million shareholders — and this from a business already well established on a course of productivity improvement and manpower reduction impressive by any standards. Over the past three years, manpower has been reduced by 40 per cent — with the loss of 13,000 jobs — while the capacity, efficiency and reliability of the system have increased. This drive continues.

As the regulator herself has conceded, the intellectual basis for these new proposals — coming less than three years after an exhaustive MMC inquiry, and overturning many of its findings — is arcane. Arcane or not, the effect is simple — an unprecedented tilting of the balance of interest from shareholder to consumer that amounts to little short of expropriation. Nor would gas consumers ultimately benefit, because the short-sighted, impractical measures proposed by Ofgas would imperil Transco's ability to fulfil its statutory duty to provide a safe and reliable transportation service. Instead of "win-win", shareholders and consumers are

faced with "lose-lose". Worse, the proposals imply a highly interventionist form of regulation which will stifle managerial initiative. The most destructive features of the era of nationalised utilities look like being revisited through regulatory stranglehold. Indeed, many will regard the proposed scale of shareholder expropriation as tantamount to backdoor renationalisation.

Yet again, the appearance of regulatory shambles looks like tarnishing what should be the Government's proud record of utilities privatisation.

Who knows, history may come to see the Transco price review and its outcome as a watershed. I hope this is so, and that it leads to a fundamentally new basis for the regulation of those key elements of the nation's infrastructure that are natural monopolies. Networks such as those for distributing gas, electricity and water form the essential core of a competitive modern economy. They are capital intensive, technologically advanced, and demand the highest standards of safety, reliability and supply security. In

EXECUTIVE VOICE



Richard Giordano

my view, the regulatory framework for them must be characterised, above all, by transparency, consistency, stability and "due processes" that instil confidence on the part of all stakeholders in fair and balanced regulatory decisions.

Any constructive critique of the regulation of such natural monopolies must be balanced by recognition of the achievements of this Government's drive for utilities privatisation and market liberalisation. In

the case of British Gas, consumer prices have been reduced by almost a quarter in real terms since privatisation. To deliver this, there have been large increases in productivity and efficiency, while sustaining our exemplary record of safe and reliable gas supply.

The drive for improvement is far from spent. The liberalisation of the entire UK gas market, and hopefully, in parallel, the electricity market, will undoubtedly deliver further substantial benefits. British Gas for one has been fully supportive of the drive for market liberalisation.

When the gas industry can overcome the current structural impediment of the monopoly era "take-or-pay" contracts, there will be scope for further significant price reductions.

How then should we preserve these great gains while ensuring that the full potential for further benefits is realised?

We must start by recognising the boldness of the experiment in which Britain is leading the world by introducing competition to the supply of gas to individual households. Making

competition work fully for all 19 million domestic consumers will take time, perhaps years. Inevitably there will be patches of instability, even chaos, on the way there. The essential safety net that ultimately guarantees the success and operational integrity of this bold experiment, and hence the effectiveness of competition, is Transco. Regulatory changes made now that would imperil Transco's ability to fulfil its statutory duty of safely and reliably carrying gas from beach to meter could not be timed more perversely. They would be irresponsible.

Next, we should recognise the dangers of "industrial anorexia", of squeezing the life and dynamism out of major industrial enterprises whose continued success depends on forward-looking long-term investment, on innovation, and on retention of the most talented and committed people. When such anorexia is driven by regulatory fiat, we have good cause to be concerned. For Britain's utilities regulators all too often display the intellectual equivalent of being muscle-bound. They have attracted the finest

intellectual talent and analytical capability. So well and good, except that some of the most critical judgments that must be made by the regulators require more than intellectual analysis: they require a deep understanding and seasoned experience of the practical realities of business and the key factors for its lasting success.

Finally, let us resist the tendency for self-denigration and the denial of our achievements. British Gas's achievements over the past three decades compare favourably with those of any gas utility in the world. Certainly, there is no gas industry that is more sophisticated, highly developed and technologically advanced. The core of skills and experience developed in British Gas is admired worldwide and sought after, particularly in those rapidly industrialising economies that want to develop modern gas industries. Pursuing these opportunities internationally will benefit not just shareholders, but order books and jobs in many other British companies.

Richard Giordano is chairman of British Gas

BAA wins Allders bid

BAA has emerged as the successful bidder for Allders International, the tax and duty-free arm of the department store group (Clare Shaw writes). It is paying £150 million in cash for the chain of 22 airport, cruise ship and ferry outlets worldwide.

Allders International is the largest duty-free retailer in Europe. In the year to September its turnover was £518 million, with pre-tax profits of £11.7 million.

Barry Gibson, BAA group retail director, described the

acquisition as "a natural development of our strategy to build an international airport business". BAA said it has no immediate plans to rebrand or restructure the Allders outlets.

John Pattison, chairman of Allders, said yesterday that the future of the international division had been under consideration in the light of changes after 1999 that will end the current duty-free allowances in Europe.

Shares in BAA rose 6p, to 534p, while Allders closed at 226p, down 14p.

Spending overrun raises PSBR

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

PUBLIC borrowing has gone adrift in the first month of the new tax year but because of an overrun on government spending rather than a hole in tax revenues, the chief concern of recent months.

The public sector borrowing requirement was £3.3 billion in April, compared with City forecasts of £2.8 billion, Office for National Statistics figures

showed. Economists are already expecting the Treasury to revise its full-year PSBR forecast of £22.5 billion upwards in its summer forecast in July, which will make it more difficult for the Chancellor to justify tax cuts in the eyes of the financial markets.

Alex Garsard, of UBS, said: "Clearly, based on economic considerations alone, Kenneth Clarke's scope for tax cuts has all but disappeared."

The worse than expected

borrowing figure for April was largely due to higher than predicted spending. City economists have long worried that the tight discipline exerted over spending in the past few years may start to crumble as the election draws nearer.

Central government spending was up 7.5 per cent on a year ago last month, compared with the Treasury's forecast for the year as a whole of 1.2 per cent. Of course, this is just one month's figures but

it implies that the Government will have to re-exert control on public spending to meet its existing borrowing projections, let alone find room for tax cuts in November.

Better news came on the revenues side of the equation with income tax, corporation tax and VAT all showing healthy growth in April. Total receipts were up 12.1 per cent in April, compared with a full-year Treasury projection of 5 per cent and the year-on-year

rise of only 4 per cent seen in March. Adam Cole, of HSBC James Capel, said: "While it is clearly too soon to draw conclusions for the year as a whole, it seems that a PSBR overshoot relative to the Treasury's forecast is now more likely to come from laxity on spending than continuing undershoots on tax receipts."

Last year, public borrowing badly overshot the Treasury's projections, largely because of a shortfall in tax receipts.

J Bibby ahead by 34%

J Bibby, the industrial holding company controlled by South Africa's Barlow Rand, lifted half-year pre-tax profits 34 per cent, to £18.97 million, aided by an 89 per cent leap in operating profits in the capital equipment division.

Earnings per share rose 30 per cent, to 6.51p. The interim dividend rises 14 per cent to 2p. The shares rose 1p to 131p.

Richard Mansell-Jones, chairman, said sales of earth-moving equipment in Spain rose significantly because of orders from mining. *Tempus*, page 28

Cable's cash

General Cable, the cable company, has had a second consecutive quarter of positive cashflow and expects to end the year in the same state. Operating cashflow was £805,000 in the quarter to March 31 (operating cashflow loss of £691,000 in the same 1995 quarter). The pre-tax operating loss was £6.12 million (£4.64 million loss) on turnover of £9.69 million, up 45 per cent.

Ocean drops

Pre-tax profits of Ocean Wilsons Holdings, the investment holding company and shipping company group, fell to £7.7 million, from £10.48 million. Operating profits rose to £7.7 million, from £4.88 million, but financial items made pre-tax profits fall. A 3.5p final dividend, due on June 21, makes 4.5p (4.25p).

Israeli aim

SEA Multimedia, an Israeli producer of CD-Rom titles, is to float on the Alternative Investment Market in June, valued at about £16 million. SEA is to raise £2.5 million by placing 3.6 million ordinary shares at 70p.

Next sales up

Next, the clothing retailer and mail order group, yesterday said that spring and summer sales are strongly up on last year.

Writ over book served on Forsyth

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE joint administrators of Polly Peck International (PPI) have served a writ on Elizabeth Forsyth, seeking royalties from her book on the collapse of Asil Nadir's fruit-to-electronics empire. The writ was served on Forsyth in prison, where she is serving five years for handling stolen funds.

The move is designed to recoup some of the £400,000 of PPI money allegedly handled by Forsyth during a visit to Switzerland in 1989. The money was used to pay private Nadir stockbroking and farming debts. Deloitte & Touche is separately contemplating legal action against SG Warburg Solicitors, the Swiss firm which handed over the money to Forsyth.

Lawyers acting for Deloitte & Touche have obtained a court order, prohibiting Forsyth from disposing of assets in England and Wales up to the value of



Forsyth: five-year sentence

£400,000. The prohibition relates in particular to earnings on the book *Who Killed Polly Peck?*, her account of the Nadir saga. The order requires Forsyth to disclose the value of all her assets in England and Wales. A further hearing will be held in the High Court on June 5.

Shoemaker tumbles

SHARES in Chamberlain Philpotts fell by more than one third yesterday as the shoe-making company gave warning that it was facing a difficult trading environment. But an improved trading statement in December, when the company unveiled half-year profits of £2.8 million, helped to revive the share price.

Chamberlain floated on the stock market in 1994 at 165p. The warning is the second

issued by the company in six months. The shares slumped 25 per cent last October after the company gave warning that it was facing a difficult trading environment. But an improved trading statement in December, when the company unveiled half-year profits of £2.8 million, helped to revive the share price.

Tempus, page 28

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buyer	Bank Seller
Australia \$	1.89	1.83
Austria Sch	17.31	15.81
Belgium F	50.84	46.34
Canada \$	2.181	2.021
Cyprus Cyp£	0.751	0.698
Denmark Kr	9.51	8.71
Finland Mk	7.70	7.05
France F	8.28	7.61
Germany M	2.47	2.28
Greece Dr	368.00	358.00
Hong Kong \$	12.37	11.37
Israel P	1.22	0.94
Italy Lira	5,3100	4,8900
Italy Lira	2481.00	2206.00
Japan Yen	175.70	166.70
Malta	0.587	0.532
Netherlands Gld	2.744	2.514
New Zealand \$	10.49	9.69
Norway Kr	2.35	2.13
Portugal Esc	200.80	187.50
S Africa Rd	7.17	6.37
Spain Ptas	200.50	187.50
Sweden Kr	10.36	10.05
Switzerland F	2.03	1.85
Turkey Lira	1208.90	1129.50

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

As the assembled executives started to digest the contents of the Ofgas review, they realised that a terrible war had just got a lot worse...

Does British Gas have a future? *Business*, The Sunday Times tomorrow

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Sarah Bagnall

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: ROGER SAUL

Mulberry man brings dash of colour to AIM

Sarah Bagnall traces the rise of a high-quality company from humble Somerset origins into a worldwide concern poised for its market debut

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

ITALY has Gucci, France has Louis Vuitton and Britain has Roger Saul.

In the world of high-quality, luxury leather goods, these are the names that matter. But although Saul's name is not as well known as the others, his name means nothing to the general public.

However, it only requires mention of the business that he created 25 years ago — Mulberry, the manufacturer and retailer of upmarket leather goods, gloriously rich soft furnishings and distinctly country-style clothing — and the connection is made.

Saul, 45, started Mulberry with a mere £500 — a 21st birthday present from his parents — and has built the company into a £25 million turnover business, with stores from St Petersburg and Hong Kong to Helsinki and London.

Next week the group is expected to be valued on the stock market at more than £30 million when it places about 25 per cent of its shares on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

Saul's first brush with the retail trade came while he was still at school in Bath. It was the late Sixties — the heyday of Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band — when Saul, still in his teens, travelled up to London at weekends to sell Victorian military uniforms in Portobello Road market.

However, in spite of his passion for retailing, he headed, after leaving school, for a business studies course at the City of Westminster College, courtesy of a solid fuel company. "Step one, I had got to London. But then I thought: 'Wow, under-manager in Surbiton at the age of 30 is perhaps not what I want.' The company was very good to me when I said I wanted to get into fashion and they let me go," he recalls. As a result, three months into his course, he switched sponsors.

His next sponsor was more up his street. Saul walked into the office of one of the Carnaby Street kings and asked for sponsorship for his remaining years at college. "He said: 'What on earth is business management?' but agreed," says Saul.

While Saul was still at college, he branched out on his own. "It was 1970 and I went out and bought some leather, a knife and got designing. The first thing I did was chokers, which I sold to Biba and the other hip boutiques at the time. It was so successful I graduated to belts."

That was the birth of his own business, which, after much deliberation, was called Mulberry. "I looked at the Italian and French names and they were all signatures — Yves Saint Laurent, Pierre Cardin and Louis Vuitton. Somehow Roger Saul didn't have the right ring and

was not going to impress anyone. So I looked for an English name and Mulberry seemed right," he says.

Saul's role at Mulberry has changed significantly since those early days. Originally he was designer, cutter, stitcher, marketing director, sales director and general dogbody. He recalls: "I used to design the belts and then stitch them up on the kitchen table in my flat. Then I'd go out with my suitcase of belts and see all the buyers and sell them. I would literally take an order and go back to Somerset, make it, cut it, stitch it, and my mother, Joan, would type up the invoice and then I would go back and deliver it. It was a hand-to-mouth existence in those days."

In the first year, sales reached £7,000. Now, Saul employs nearly 500 people around the world, of whom more than 350 work in the group's Somerset factories, and he has had to relinquish his stranglehold on the design side to take on the mantle of chief executive and chairman.

"My role is as chairman and chief executive rather than designer, as I keep on being reminded. As a result my role is to be the inspiration as to where the business is going and what it should be doing. I should be the design guru in feeling which direction the product should be going, and the marketer in understanding how we are best going to present the product in different markets around the world," he says.

Speaking in a small, quiet voice, Saul makes one feel that he is self-effacing, but that impression evaporates as he talks about the business. Last Monday, he held a review meeting on the menswear collection for spring and summer of

next year. Saul, together with a plethora of managers, sat down and went through the collection to double-check the best-sellers and ensure that the design development manager had an up-to-the-minute picture of the market. "This is because what is happening right now is terribly important," he explains.

By looking at what is flying in the shops from the current season's collection and what isn't, as well as how well the selling season has gone for the autumn collection, the team can garner valuable insights into what is likely to sell as far ahead as next spring.

"We saw this with long-sleeve polo necks. They are just not selling. Why not? So we will look into it and could decide to cut back the numbers. Or I can say: 'Come on guys. You have only sold that many suits, why are you doing a range that big or why aren't we putting more effort and money into sportswear because we sold masses of that?'"

The meetings also expose potential problems, such as the news that emerged at Monday's meeting that the company had lost a supplier of a particular menswear line. "My response was: 'I'm very sorry you are going to have to design it, and you are going to have to produce it, and you are going to have to come out with



Model business: Roger Saul, who launched Mulberry with a £500 birthday present, has established an international reputation for luxury leather goods

that product at the right pricing point'. Instead of sitting there saying: 'Oh no, we haven't got a supplier', they are going to have to find one and they have about three and a half months to sort it out."

Saul admits that this task was only taken because the product was so important for the collection as a whole.

"Maybe if we hadn't had that meeting we might not have found that out until six weeks later, by when it would have been too late." The next day, he went through the whole process again with ladies' wear.

It is not only Saul's role that has changed. Gone are the purple velvet flares, the beard and the long hair. They have been replaced by an immaculately attired English gentleman in highly polished shoes, tailored pin-striped suit and a waistcoat adorned with a fob watch.

Saul lives with his wife, Monty, and their three boys, William, 17, Cameron, 15, and Freddie, 7. Monty, who is a former house model for Christian Dior in Paris, is a director of Mulberry, in charge of staff training. They appear to live a Mulberry existence. Their home is a beautiful old Somerset farmhouse, from where, each day, Saul makes the half-hour journey along winding country lanes to the company's headquarters at

Chilcompton, near Midsomer Norton. A keen gardener, Saul has a three-acre walled garden that inspires some of Mulberry's fabric designs. "I did a new border last year. It was deep wines, reds, blues and silvers turning into golds as the autumn came. I got so excited about that colour palette that we have used it quite strongly in the autumn collection," says Saul, brandishing a long, purple velvet man's

coat. The coat is part of Mulberry's latest ranges, which have richer, brighter colours than in recent years. Saul believes this is connected to economic conditions,

and spotting the shifts in tastes is an important part of his job.

"During recession, people don't really want to buy something that is lime green and exciting, whereas when you come out of recession things tend to burst out like spring, and it goes crazy and bright colours come back in. It's all about understanding those cycles. We haven't seen colour having as much importance as it does now for 20 years," he adds.

Saul says that the most exciting aspect of his job is research and development. The group draws on a host of influences for its collection. "We have to think: 'Should we be looking at Morocco or Indian material designs or cavalry uniforms of the early 20th century?' So we have someone down at Sandhurst [the

Royal Military Academy] at the moment researching uniforms."

The share placing on the AIM will raise up to £9 million, enabling Mulberry to pay off City backers who hold expensive loan notes issued at the peak of the interest rate cycle four years ago. Repaying the mixture of equity and deep-discounted loan notes will improve the group's cashflow and net asset value. Saul and his family will own about 75 per cent of the group after the flotation. Thursday is impact day, and trading in Mulberry shares will start soon afterwards.

The move will provide Saul with greater flexibility to expand Mulberry, and to establish it firmly alongside the likes of Gucci and Louis Vuitton.

HIDDEN ASSETS

Art meets architecture in the palace on Fenchurch Street

Lloyd's Register of Shipping has just moved out of its City of London headquarters, in Fenchurch Street, to make way for a major redesign of the site. Maggie House, Corporation House and Haddon House are to be demolished, and designs for a new headquarters are due at the end of this month from the Richard Rogers Partnership, with the building due to be completed by the next millennium.

However, Lloyd's Register's excellent hidden asset, the sumptuous Grade II listed classical building at No 71, is to be retained and refurbished. Sir Richard Rogers is to work the new design around it.

Sir Richard ought to be delighted to do so, for this building is one of London's finest galleries of turn-of-the-century architecture, art, design and craftsmanship. Soon after its completion in

Joanna Pitman goes on a tour of the soon-to-be redesigned Lloyd's Register

1901, it was described by *The Magazine of Art* as "a modern palace of art" and its exterior has been likened to "a Loire chateau bursting to escape through the roof of a Venetian palazzo". The architect was Sir Thomas Colcutt, designer of Simpson's-in-the-Strand and the Wigmore Hall. It is his Fenchurch Street palazzo, however, that became the measure of his achievement.

The exterior is in a Classical style derived from 16th-century Italy — in fact Colcutt's building would not look out of place amid the Classical palaces of Venice's seafaring aristocracy. However, Colcutt's is marked by a flourish of originality in the use of elaborate friezes of maritime scenes and in tur-

rets projecting from the corners of the building, each of which is heavily decorated with ships under sail and sculpted maidens bearing shipbuilding tools.

George Frampton, best known for his 1912 Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens, created much of the figure sculpture on the main elevations, and Frank Lynn Jenkins was responsible for many of the interior friezes. Lynn Jenkins's work has an unusual medieval quality, reminiscent of Pre-Raphaelite influences, and his use of precious stones, electro-plated metals and exotic effects created a strong, sensual Art Nouveau flavour in much of his work.

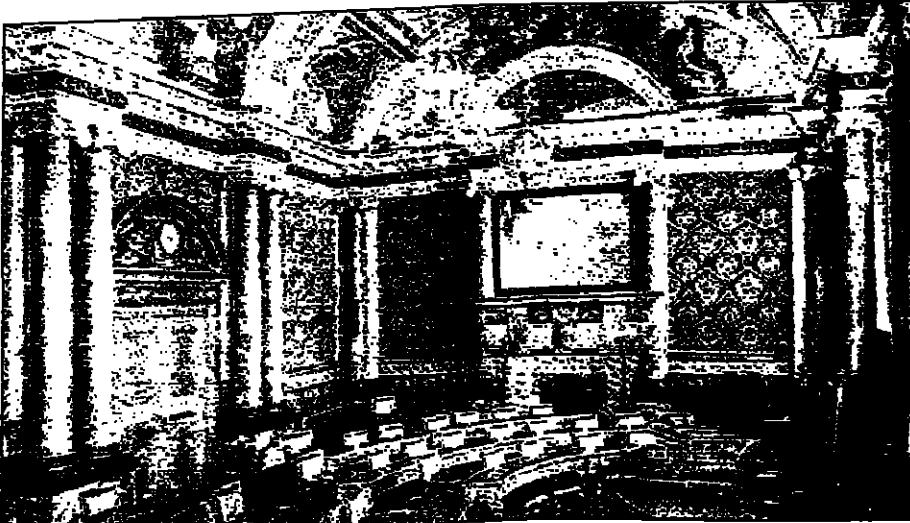
Colcutt chose the artists and craftsmen who decorated Lloyd's Register for their

shared belief that art must complement architecture.

The interior is a curious blend of Edwardian Baroque and Arts and Crafts, with painted ceilings apparently inspired by the Sistine Chapel. The impression is highly coloured and pungently eclectic. In the Committee Room, for example, a huge marble chimney-piece with tilework by William de Morgan, a leading ceramicist of the late 19th century, is complemented by classical columns and futuristic chandeliers. The overall picture, in this room particularly, reflects the influence of the Art Workers Guild, founded in 1884 to encourage art in architecture.

The library is equally sumptuous, its mahogany bookcases inlaid with rosewood and fruit woods. Much of the panelling bears an inlaid flower motif in Art Nouveau style. The barrel-vaulted ceiling is decorated by stencils incorporating nautical designs. Here are the arms of the great ship-building ports of the day — Belfast, Glasgow, Stockton-on-Tees, Greenock, Liverpool, Newcastle, Hartlepool, Sunderland and London.

Lloyd's Register has been part of the City for 230 years, the idea of a record of a ship's age, origin and construction having arisen among gossiping underwriters in Edward Lloyd's coffee-house in the late 17th century. Over those 230 years, its headquarters have undergone a transformation from coffee-shop to Edwardian baroque palace of art. In four years time, we will see how Richard Rogers has transformed them yet again.



Classical columns and futuristic chandeliers adorn the General Committee Room

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Dow's strong run helps to restore confidence

EIGHT days of consecutive gains on Wall Street enabled the London stock market to end the week on a high note.

Another early 50-point surge in the Dow Jones industrial average breathed fresh life into the London market, with prices closing near their best of the day. The FT-SE 100 index finished 30 points higher at 3,789.6, a rise on the week of 35.2, as turnover reached 857 million shares.

Renewed talk of a large bid emerging and confirmation of a windfall for National Power shareholders underpinned investor confidence. A strong performance by the bond market in the wake of the latest PSBR also helped sentiment, with the expiry of the May FT-SE 100 traded options passing off without event.

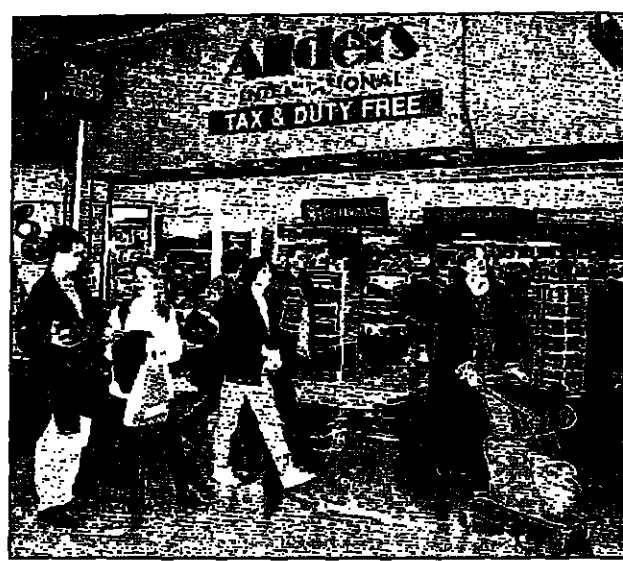
Glaxo Wellcome continued to make the most of this week's positive comments about current trading with a rise of 17p to 854p. Shareholders were told that it expected to introduce 20 new drugs between 1997 and the turn of the century. The benefits of the merger with Wellcome were also evident.

Midt continued to rumble on beneath the surface, with much of the interest focused on the financial sector. Bank of Scotland climbed another 14p to 271p after claims that it may get together with Royal Bank of Scotland, up 21p at 552p. The speculation was rekindled earlier this week by Standard Life's decision to put its 32 per cent stake in Bank of Scotland up for sale. Standard Chartered, up 23p at 640p, is seen as another hot favourite to be bid for.

The composite insurers were marked higher on talk of a bid from Allianz, the German insurer. Brokers say it may try to snap up both Royal Insurance, up 12p at 450p, and Sun Alliance, 15p better at 429p, which have both agreed to merge, or may turn its attention to Commercial Union, 7p better at 637p.

Revised speculative buying lifted Lucas Industries 7p to 239p on turnover of more than 10.5 million shares. The group is still in talks with Vario Corporation in the US about closer co-operation.

Railtrack shares are expected to get off to a flying start in their partly-paid form when trading gets under way on Monday. The £1.95 billion flotation was almost three times oversubscribed, with the



Alders rose 9p to 534p, up 6p, took over its duty-free chain

fully-paid price expected to be pitched at 300p. Over on the grey market, IG Index, the City bookmaker, was quoting Railtrack shares at 212p to 215p compared with the initial part-paid price of 190p for private investors and 200p for the institutions.

British Gas managed to halt this week's slide that followed the regulators' find-

T&N, the automotive components group, continued to bump along the bottom, the price down 3p to 156p, as a large line stock changed hands. Brokers say a put through of 12.35 million shares, about 2.5 per cent of the issued share capital, was recorded at 155p, stretching total turnover to 44 million shares.

ings, ending the session 3p better at 177p, but the price still ended 50p down on the week. Richard Giordano, chairman, is urging shareholders to write complaining to the Government over the decision.

National Power rebounded 31p to 547p after confirming reports that it plans to reward shareholders with a £1.14 billion windfall in the form of a 100p special dividend. It also plans to increase the annual payout by almost 50 per cent to

23p. The move follows the decision by the Government to block its proposed bid for Southern Electric, the regional electricity company. National Power said it was committed to further real growth in dividends and that more reduction in dividend cover would be appropriate.

BT continued to make headway, adding 7p to 340p in

reponse to Thursday's figures which saw pre-tax profits reach £3 billion for the first time. Within the next week, or two, Ofel, the industry regulator, is due to unveil details of its pricing formula. BT has been at loggerheads with the regulator for some time and if it chooses to reject the findings, the whole matter is likely to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

This would result in a period of further uncertainty for the share price, which has

been underperforming the market. Alders, the department store chain, rose 9p to 534p after announcing it had sold its airport duty-free operation to BAA, the independent airport operator. The price tag is expected to be around £130 million. BAA rose 6p to 534p.

Telemetric slipped 3p to 102p after warning that interim earnings are likely to fall short of last year, owing to losses at its GTI subsidiary. Arthur Walsh, chairman, said action had already been taken to cut costs, improve efficiency and improve services.

The speculators were picking up shares in British Biotech, up 45p at £28.45, in anticipation of further update of phase two trials of its Marimastat cancer treatment.

On Tuesday, the group will give a presentation to Asco, the international oncology conference. Brokers will also get a rundown of current trials. Last year British Biotech shares surged from 42p to £18.10 as they cashed in on the prospects for Marimastat.

Stagecoach, the independent bus operator, firmed 1p to 441p despite threats to refer its proposed acquisition of Cambus to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless it agreed to certain conditions. The Government wants Stagecoach to sell MK Metro, Milton Keynes Citybus and United Counties Omnibus depot and to impose conditions on fares and service levels, responses to competition and information provision. In return Stagecoach would hold a dominant position for bus services in Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes.

NEW YORK: Shares followed back early falls, supported by strong US treasury bonds. This enabled the London market to shrug off the "slightly disappointing" PSBR numbers. In the futures pit the June series of the long gilt rose £1.32 to £106.4 in thin trading that saw just 38,000 contracts completed.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £1.32 better at 97.72, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished £.32 better at 102.16.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5678.42 (+41.37)
S&P Composite	668.02 (+3.17)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	21016.01 (+230.61)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10816.85 (+16.54)
Amsterdam:	
BOE Index	554.20 (+4.73)
Sydney:	
ASX	2291.6 (+6.1)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2537.33 (+4.58)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	2341.79 (+6.10)
Brussels:	
General	6233.34 (+19.12)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2136.91 (+12.27)
Zurich:	
SIX Gen	786.61 (+2.20)
London:	
FT 100	3789.6 (+30.6)
FT 100 Mid 250	4513.4 (+19.4)
FT-SE 250	1917.0 (+16.0)
FT-SE Eurozone 100	1684.7 (+1.69)
FT-A All-Share	1901.77 (+14.78)
FT Non Financials	2017.3 (+12.29)
FT FTSE Interest	111.69 (+0.11)
FT Govt Secs	92.53 (+0.25)
Surge Index	877.88
SEAQ Volume	220.30 (+0.22)
USM (Deutsche)	1.5150 (+0.0027)
German Mark	2.3101 (+0.0009)
Exchange Index	84.4 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (pips)	1.2127
ECU	1.0490
RPI	152.6 Apr (2.4%) Jan 1987-100
RPIX	152.0 Apr (2.9%) Jan 1987-100

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Queensbrgh n/p (28)	1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
ERF	273p (+30p)
Business Post	410p (+32p)
Telecom	180p (+10p)
Arjo Wiggins	180p (+10p)
MAID	287p (+15p)
Stand Chart	640p (+23p)
Br Airways	558p (+19p)
Royal	450p (+12p)
Nat West	681p (+16p)
Ry Bk Sall	552p (+21p)

FALLS:	
Mitel	445p (-16p)
Alders	228p (-14p)
Serity Farm	304p (-11p)
Dorling Kind	624p (-9p)

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TEMPUS

Slow boats in China

THE timing of the Hesteline trade mission to China is a little bit of a puzzle. With the country on the verge of a trade war with the United States over pirate CDs, what could be more welcome to the Chinese than the sight of a jumbo jet full of British businessmen waving contracts and cheques. For Britain, it is an opportunity to step up its trading links with the Peoples Republic which have been pathetically weak. Total British exports to China were only £344 million in 1994, with Britain accounting for a mere 2.6 per cent of OECD exports to China, ranking behind Germany, France and Italy.

Foreign businessmen in Peking talk of a more aggressive approach to doing business from other nations whose diplomatic missions are less populated by distinguished Sinologists. However, Britain is making its presence felt in direct investment in China.

National Power

WITH almost unseemly haste, the utilities are showering cash on their shareholders. The logic is that there is little reason to hold on to surplus cash only to see it disappear into the Treasury under a new government looking for a milk-cow to fund social programmes.

National Power's £1 special dividend was expected, but it is no less impressive for that. What was even more interesting was the handsome rise in the ordinary payout and the promise of more. Gearing is to rise and the company indicates that cover can fall but, having reduced it to 2.3 times, National Power is being cut how far it will go.

That depends on how you view the company. National Power is higher risk than an electricity distributor and

faces vigorous competition in 1998, with some predicting falling earnings. The company is bullish about overseas projects and proudly spoke of doubled earnings from overseas power generation but those markets, too, are competitive. In Thailand, 32 companies are bidding for a power station contract.

The interesting question is whether National Power's dividend prospects make it attractive. Stripping out the two divs announced yesterday, the ex-dividend price would be 425p. Assuming a 7 per cent nominal growth, the prospective yield is over 7 per cent. That is a handsome premium but the electricity distributors yield as much for less risk.

Chamberlain Phipps

IT HAS not taken long for shares in Chamberlain Phipps, the shoe manufacturer, to lose their shine. Dan Sullivan, the venture capitalist who brought Chamberlain to the market in August 1994, courted controversy. At the time of the float, the directors adopted some generous incentive arrangements and paid themselves bonuses totalling £500,000 for their work on the flotation.

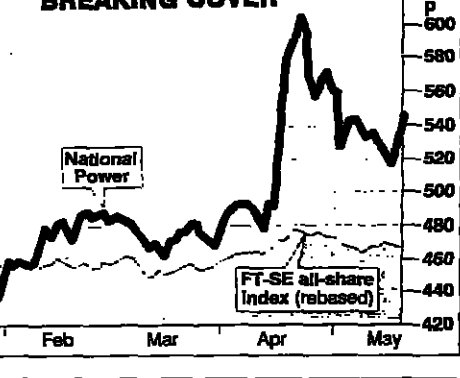
For 12 months, the company enjoyed a honeymoon on the stock market, turning in an encouraging set of maiden results. The romance began to turn sour when Chamberlain made a first profit warning in October. In the light of yesterday's warning it is not that statement that looks so strange but the fact that the company suggested at the time of its interim results that the trad-

where it ranks top among European nations, investing \$2.2 billion last year, about twice the level of both France and Germany.

Even so, the environment is difficult for foreign investors. China has just begun to lower interest rates after a credit squeeze introduced to cool the economy and a 22 per cent inflation rate. A shortage of credit has caused temporary difficulties for some foreign investment projects, including BP's \$240 million acetic acid plant on the Yangtze River, where the company has been waiting for its Chinese partner to come up with funds. Much more serious problems have beset others, including Shell whose \$6 billion Nanhai refinery project has been log-jammed for years and the company is now trying to extricate one of its employees from a Chinese jail. This is not a business culture for the timid.

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BREAKING COVER



Chamberlain Phipps

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Chamberlain Phipps

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

British Gas	177p
Bank of Scotland	271p
BT	340p
Amrad Consumer Etc	161p
National Power	547p
Glaxo Wellcome	854p
Wessex Water	110p
Harland & Wolff	190p
Wace	204p

ings, ending the session 3p better at 177p, but the price still ended 50p down on the week. Richard Giordano, chairman, is urging shareholders to write complaining to the Government over the decision.

National Power rebounded 31p to 547p after confirming reports that it plans to reward shareholders with a £1.14 billion windfall in the form of a 100p special dividend. It also plans to increase the annual payout by almost 50 per cent to

23p. The move follows the decision by the Government to block its proposed bid for Southern Electric, the regional electricity company. National Power said it was committed to further real growth in dividends and that more reduction in dividend cover would be appropriate.

BT continued to make headway, adding 7p to 340p in

reponse to Thursday's figures which saw pre-tax profits reach £3 billion for the first time. Within the next week, or two, Ofel, the industry regulator, is due to unveil details of its pricing formula. BT has been at loggerheads with the regulator for some time and if it chooses to reject the findings, the whole matter is likely to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

This would result in a period of further uncertainty for the share price, which has

been underperforming the market. Alders, the department store chain, rose 9p to 534p after announcing it had sold its airport duty-free operation to BAA, the independent airport operator. The price tag is expected to be around £130 million. BAA rose 6p to 534p.

Telemetric slipped 3p to 102p after warning that interim earnings are likely to fall short of last year, owing to losses at its GTI subsidiary. Arthur Walsh, chairman, said action had already been taken to cut costs, improve efficiency and improve services.

The speculators were picking up shares in British Biotech, up 45p at £28.45, in anticipation of further update of phase two trials of its Marimastat cancer treatment.

On Tuesday, the group will give a presentation to Asco, the international oncology conference. Brokers will also get a rundown of current trials. Last year British Biotech shares surged from 42p to £18.10 as they cashed in on the prospects for Marimastat.

Stagecoach, the independent bus operator, firmed 1p to 441p despite threats to refer its proposed acquisition of Cambus to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless it agreed to certain conditions. The Government wants Stagecoach to sell MK Metro, Milton Keynes Citybus and United Counties Omnibus depot and to impose conditions on fares and service levels, responses to competition and information provision. In return Stagecoach would hold a dominant position for bus services in Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes.

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Richard Thomson on bank charges in New York



Sids left cold by prospect of price curbs

Caroline Merrell on why small investors are switching their attention from British Gas

The thrills and spills of stock market investing were all too apparent this week to investors in privatisation shares. While PowerGen and National Power shareholders were celebrating windfalls, holders of British Gas were left fearing for their dividends. Several stockbrokers are advising British Gas investors to sell, even though the shares have dropped more than 20 per cent this week in the wake of the decision by Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, to introduce price curbs.

While her proposals deliver cost savings of around £30 to the average gas consumer, they are not so kind to the 1.7 million small investors, the Sids who have shares in British Gas. On the day of the announcement itself, the share price dropped 27p, wiping £1.2 billion off the value of the company. The share price of British Gas is now only 42.5p above its privatisation price of 135p ten years ago.

The strength of the intervention by the regulator shocked the markets and is likely to cast a pall over the forthcoming pricing of Railtrack and the outlook for BT.

The regulator's action, which will cut the profits of British Gas by up to £850 million, will remind investors of some of the problems of investing solely in privatised companies. Research shows that ten years of popular capitalism have not extended

wider share ownership beyond an average holding of £1,000. Most small investors only hold the shares of one company.

British Gas shares have been at the top of the sell list for stockbrokers for a number of months. Financial advisers do not think this week's fall in share price heralds the turning point for gas shares.

Instead, they believe there may be even worse news around the corner, especially as it appears the company will have to cut dividends. The

The strength of the intervention by the regulator really shocked the markets

stated wish of Richard Giordano, the British Gas chairman, to rid the company of Sids appears about to be granted — though probably not in the way he intended.

The future profitability of British Gas will depend on the outcome of any investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into the proposed price-capping. An MMC investigation is likely to take several months and will jeopardise the proposed demerger of the company into two separate companies —

TransCo International and British Gas Energy.

Peter Hollins, research analyst with Albert E Sharpe, a regional stockbroker, said: "We have been aggressive sellers of British Gas over the last few months. We are planning to continue to sell the shares."

Mr Hollins believes the MMC would side with the regulator about the price curbs. Despite the MMC's independence from the Government, he claims: "We are taking a rather conspiratorial view. This Government cannot afford to give tax cuts to the electorate. So giving them cheaper gas bills might be one way of winning them over."

He also thinks Clare Spottiswoode's action could be the start of much tougher regulatory controls on all the privatised utilities. "The worst is yet to come," he added.

Eric Hawthorn, director of Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, said the action had implications for the Railtrack sell-off. He said: "This will effect all regulation. Railtrack is a politically unpopular sale anyway, especially with the Labour Party, which may soon be in power."

"It would be easy to see a situation where a regulator could curb its profitability because it is concerned about safety on the railways."

Even if Railtrack did make good long-term profits, he pointed out, Labour could introduce a windfall tax on that profit.



Double trouble: Clare Spottiswoode's proposals hurt British Gas shares and may prove painful for BT

Utilities take real pounding

WHEN British Gas started its nosedive, it took BT and most of the utilities sector with it, including many of the privatised electricity companies.

Among electricity stocks, Yorkshire Electricity lost 37p to 749p on the week. Southern Electric was 38p lower at 782p and London Electricity eased 32p to 747p.

Water shares were also hit, with Anglian Water down 33p to 543p on the week. Yorkshire Water off 7p to 635p and South West Water 12p lower at 660p.

Even British Telecom was not immune. Fear of a more stringent regulatory environment sent the shares to a 52-week low of 326p on Tuesday. To make matters worse, BT's chairman announced this week that the company cannot survive if next year's price cap is similar to the current one.

After announcing a 13.4 per cent gain in pre-tax profits to £3 billion in the year to August 31, the company also said it has no plans to pay a special dividend or to buy back shares. Yesterday, BT shares were quoted at 340p.

The spectre of regulatory changes initially fell across National Power shares, which lost ground at the beginning of the week.

But reports of a £1-a-share special dividend and a 49 per cent jump in regular dividend payments helped lift the shares to 547p yesterday, up from 535p at the start of the week.

PowerGen shares were expected to rise this week. On Tuesday, the market was abuzz with speculation that the generating group planned to announce a share buyback or special dividend. The next day, PowerGen revealed details of its 40 per cent dividend increase and £400 million share buyback. However, shares in the company languished, starting the week at 544p and ending at 532p.

KAREN ZAGOR

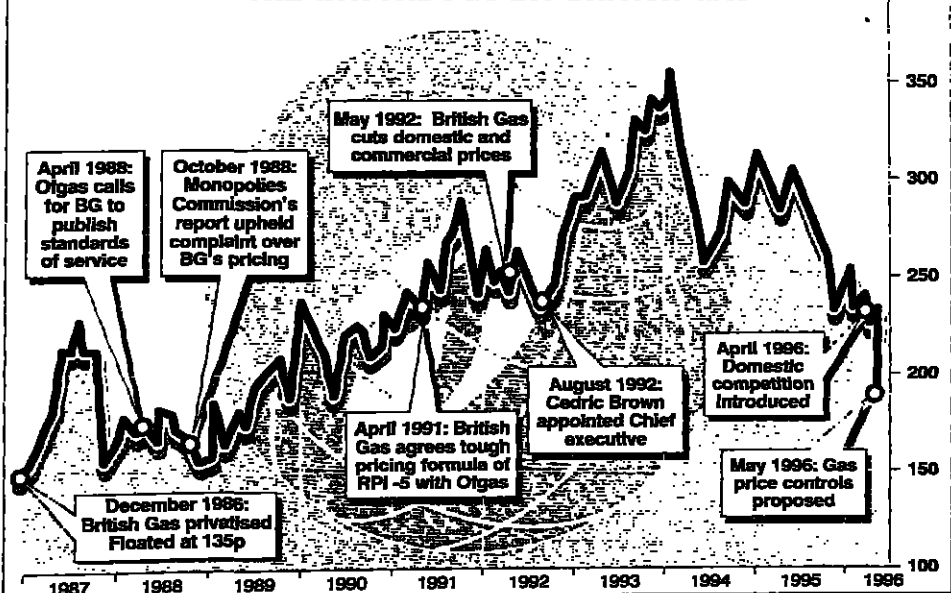
Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Gas blast is shaken off by market

BRITISH GAS and other privatisation issues may have struggled to get off the ground this week, but the market overall held steady, (Karen Zagor writes).

The FT-SE 100 inch gradually higher at the start of the week, helped by a strong performance on Wall Street. Inflation fears were allayed by encouraging economic news, lifting the Dow Jones industrial average 150 points in three days. Having opened at 3,754.4, the FT-SE 100 initially lost ground on Monday, falling 15.2 points, but this was followed by gains of 20.5 on Tuesday and 16.5 on Wednesday. On Thursday, the FT-SE 100 slipped 22.6, but it recovered 36 yesterday to close at 3,789.6.

HOW THE WATCHDOGS BIT BRITISH GAS



Socialism by the back door

Mass share ownership was supposed to help ordinary people to identify with industry. This is little comfort to the 1.7 million of us who have foolishly stayed loyal to British Gas. Its shares have dropped 44 per cent since the start of last year, almost wholly thanks to attacks by revolutionary bureaucrats. Having seen how private enterprise could deliver low prices to consumers and rising returns to investors, shareholders are now experiencing the impact of a return to detailed and unpredictable state control.

The regulators' role has changed a lot since Gas was privatised in 1986. Prices were then limited to rise by 2 per cent less than inflation for five years. After that, the prospectus explained, "further cost reductions will become more difficult over time" and the company could even apply for price controls to be abolished. But regulation developed. Instead of being just watchdogs, regulators transferred previous efficiency gains to customers at each price review and let the incentive process start again.

Last week, the Director-General of Gas Supply put forward a radical new philosophy, claiming that the latest Ofgas proposals for the TransCo pipeline business would provide "the best possible value for customers". Huge future efficiency gains were assumed and big cash price cuts proposed. Profits would plunge even if targets were met.

Incentives are being deleted. Ofgas becomes a purchaser of services on behalf of the State, consumers or users of the "common carriage" pipes. The nominal owner becomes merely a low-profit contractor. Be warned, if endorsed by the



MMC, this will be a precedent for BT's wires, for National Grid and, come 2001, for Railtrack. It would offer a Labour government socialism without ownership, hitting millions of investors and future pensioners. At British Gas, the effects are already dire.

On the usual regulatory cycle, this is not the right time to sell. The share price usually bottoms at the stage of maximum uncertainty, when the regulator threatens and the company has yet to work out how it can manage. To make British Gas worth much more than today, however, shareholders will need British Gas to win a much better deal from the MMC and to start a new strategy to put shareholders first.

In 1986, British Gas shares were sold at ten times earnings with good prospects for growth. Today they sell at the same rating but profits are set to fall badly. The only thing sustaining the shares is the dividend, which yields 9.2 per cent, against 6.8 per cent at privatisation. City analysts now

urge the company to slash the dividend by up to half. This would be part of the plan to plough money back into TransCo International, the big company that would include oil and gas exploration and production but be dominated by the TransCo distribution business. It is not a good investment to combine low returns with high risks. As the markets have shown, investors want to withdraw their risk capital from this business. If they do so by selling British Gas shares, the price will keep falling until speculators reckon it worth a punt.

The last thing investors want is to plough money back into TransCo International, the big company that would include oil and gas exploration and production but be dominated by the TransCo distribution business. It is not a good investment to combine low returns with high risks. As the markets have shown, investors want to withdraw their risk capital from this business. If they do so by selling British Gas shares, the price will keep falling until speculators reckon it worth a punt.

The alternative is for the board to act on shareholders' behalf and avoid those losses. It should look again at the share split and perhaps create three businesses instead of two. In any case, it should progressively substitute debt for shareholders' funds in TransCo, preferably debentures that would effectively control the TransCo assets when its licence expires in 15 years time. That should please the regulator, who believes TransCo would be more cheaply financed with debt rather than shareholders' funds. Bond markets would establish the true cost.

At least £3 billion cash should be returned to shareholders, via rising dividends or, as fund managers would prefer, early capital repayments. Sid should stop playing the patsy.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

NEW INVESTMENT TRUST LAUNCH

Fidelity Asian Values PLC.

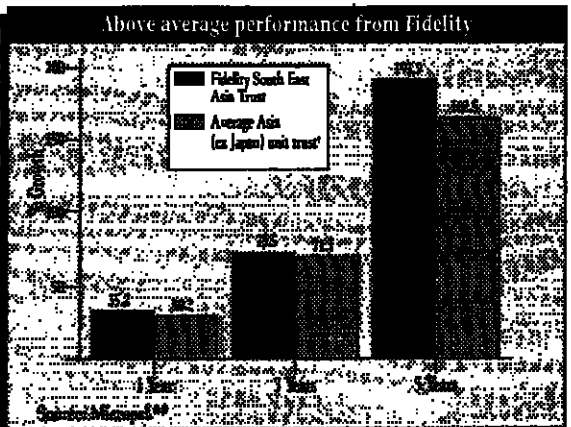
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*Asian money fund managers' poll 1995 for individual fund managers in Asia Pacific equities. *The MSCI All Countries (Combined) Far East Free ex Japan Index to 1.53%. **Microcap, offer to offer with net income reinvested to 1.53%. *Microcap Sector: Far East (excluding Japan) Specialist Equity Growth (non-specialist) unit trusts. The advertisement is not an offer or invitation to apply for shares or warrants of Fidelity Asian Values PLC (the "Company"). Applications for shares or warrants in the Company may be made solely on the basis of information contained in the Prospectus and Mini Prospectus. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of investments and income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Shares listed on stockmarkets in Asia can be more volatile and less marketable than in more developed stockmarkets. Changes in exchange rates between currencies may cause the value of the investment to diminish or increase. Investment in warrants is likely to involve a high level of gearing such that a relatively small movement in the price of the ordinary shares to which the warrants relate may result in a disproportionately large movement, unworkable as well as favourable, in the price of the warrants. Fidelity only provides information about its products and will not give investment advice based on individual circumstances. Issued by Fidelity Investments International, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Registered office: Oakhill House, Tonbridge Road, Kent TN11 9WZ.

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Karen Zagor on a Treasury measure hurting the most vulnerable in our society

Home income blow for pensioners



Harold Ingham and his wife have lost money as a result of measures introduced to the advantage of the younger and more wealthy

A tax measure designed to help the less affluent is actually hurting the most financially vulnerable sector of society — non-taxpaying pensioners — as Harold Ingham, a reader of *The Times*, has discovered.

He says: "My wife and I, aged 81 and 84 years, invested in a home income plan five years ago and have been most satisfied. However, we have been disturbed by the effect of the reduction of income tax announced last November. Our income from the plan has been at the monthly rate of £129.81, well below the level on which income tax is charged, and this is very important to us. But now, entirely as a consequence of the tax reduction, this income has been reduced to £127.75, equal to about £25 per annum."

"There must be many like us whose income has been affected in this way and all are elderly, as home income plans are normally restricted to persons over the age of 75. We thus suffer as a result of measures introduced to the advantage of the younger and more wealthy."

Home income plans are designed to allow older people to realise value from their homes before they die, recognising the fact that for most people a home is their single biggest asset. The plans are only recommended for people in their seventies and above.

There are two main types of plan. The most popular are income plans, which allow older people to remortgage their property and use the proceeds to buy an annuity to give an income for life. They remain legal owners, and can remain in their own homes.

The problem is that when the Government decided to reduce the basic rate of tax from 25 per cent to 24 per cent, one of the side-effects was to reduce the amount of relief

given on mortgage interest payments (Miras). For taxpayers, the effect of less relief on interest payments is offset by gains from lower tax on savings, leading to higher annuity payments. But non-taxpayers do not get the benefit of better annuity rates, while they do feel the impact of reduced relief on their mortgage interest payments.

Cecil Hinton, the managing director of Hinton & Wild, a firm of

al of Age Concern, expressed her anxiety after the Budget changes were announced. In a letter to the Chancellor, she said: "Age Concern is aware that a number of older people find these home income plans a useful way of releasing equity from their home in order to provide them with extra income to pay for repairs, improvements, care services or generally to improve their standard of living."

were to freeze the level of subsidy for non-taxpayers while reducing the benefits for taxpayers."

Meanwhile, at a time when it has become obvious that the Government can no longer afford to pay the care costs for an ageing population, it seems inevitable that more people will turn to home income plans.

Although the schemes were dogged by controversy in the Eighties, when unscrupulous salesmen sold plans tied to high-risk investments, they appear to be coming back into favour.

Ship (Safe Home Income Plans) was set up in 1991 by the four main plan providers — Home & Capital Trust, Stalwart Assurance, Carlyle Life and Allchurches — to establish a framework of self-imposed regulations.

This may help to protect planholders and restore the reputation of the industry, but there is also the question of whether these schemes will ever allow for the release of enough equity to fund the high cost of care.

The Treasury is showing little sign of relenting and reinstating tax relief to 25 per cent for home income planholders

independent financial advisers specialising in home income plans, says: "I'm afraid Mr Ingham is right. We have been arguing this with the Treasury, along with Age Concern, but so far we have failed. We are going to battle on in the summer before the next Budget. It is the non-taxpayers who need help most who are slightly worse off."

Lady Greengross, director-general

"We are concerned, however, that if in the future the Government's goal of a basic rate of tax of 20 per cent is achieved, there will be a more substantial drop in income of about £125 per year, or £2.50 per week."

The Treasury is showing little sign of relenting and reinstating tax relief to 25 per cent for home income planholders. A Treasury source said: "It would be a very odd situation if we

Dilemma for locked-in investors

Millions of people with savings accounts in the societies that are to float or are in the process of being taken over are facing a dilemma.

These investors have to keep their money with the society to ensure that they benefit from the maximum share or bonus allocation. As the flotations and mergers of the Halifax, Woolwich, National & Provincial, Northern Rock, and Alliance & Leicester will not all be completed until the end of next year, this effectively ties

up their savings for a long time.

The question is how do members maximise the returns on their savings in the meantime, bearing in mind that they could get nothing if they move their savings before the deals are finalised.

The answer to this question is not simple, as is the case with much of the small print governing building society takeovers and flotations. Much will depend on how the particular society has chosen to structure the deal.

The Northern Rock, for

instance, announced its plans for conversion on April 3, together with the establishment of a charitable foundation that will aim to help the local community. The society plans to seek member approval for the deal at the beginning of next year. If it goes ahead, members will benefit from a free distribution of shares. The details of how the distribution will be worked out have yet to be announced.

Savers do not yet know whether the number of shares they receive will be

linked to the amount they had saved with the society at the time of the announcement. Savers with the Northern Rock, particularly those earning a very low rate of interest on their instant access account could jeopardise their membership rights by switching their money around in the society.

Andy Kuipers, Northern Rock assistant general manager, said: "After our conversion proposal announcement, the only customers who could switch between share accounts (which are

now closed to investors) were existing members who had two or more existing share accounts in existence before April 3," he added. "They should still be very careful as they may put at risk any membership benefits which might arise."

The other societies in the midst of merging or floating are adopting a slightly different attitude to those wishing to switch accounts. The Halifax will allow members to switch money between share accounts and not jeopardise membership rights. However,



it does point out that the membership must be continuous. A spokeswoman said: "They can move accounts and it does not affect membership." Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich are adopting the same attitude towards their qualifying members.

CAROLINE MERRELL

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Check small print when you insure pension contributions

What happens if you fall ill and can no longer afford to pay your contributions to your pension? *Weekend Money* looks at the small print.

Q What is a waiver of contribution?

A It is an insurance policy which you can add to your pension to cover you if you cannot work and are unable to make regular contributions. About one in five of the estimated six million people who have a personal pension take it out.

Q How much does it cost and is it worth buying?

A The fee is between 1 and 5 per cent of the premium, although the average is 2 per cent and depends on your age, occupation and health. It is certainly advisable to buy cover, but you need to check how comprehensive it is.

Q There must be some catches. What are they?

A Some companies have clauses in their contracts which pay out only if you are so ill that you cannot work at all. The ideal policy is one which will pay out if you cannot work in your own occupation — i.e. the one you were trained for. Some stipulate that the policy pays out only if you cannot find a suitable job, while others, including Equitable Life, and two of the other top performing pension funds, Scottish Life and Scottish Amicable, will pay out only if you are unable to do any job.

Q How does this work in practice?

A In effect, this means that under some policies, if a surgeon got arthritis in his hands, he would not be covered as he could still, theoretically, find work as a receptionist. Doug Brodie of Master Adviser, the independent financial advisers, says: "It takes no account of a profession and purely focuses on the ability to work in any scenario. Nobody should take out a pension waiver cover unless it is what is called an 'own occupation' waiver. The cost to insurance companies is minimal, but the difference to policyholders who become unable to work at their 'own occupation' would be enormous."

Q So how do I know what cover I have?

A You should ask your pension provider to clarify the details. The fol-

lowing pension companies have an "own job" policy. Standard Life, which is included on the list, changed its policy this week in response to complaints, and Mr Brodie hopes those left off the list will do the same. The list includes: Abbey Life, Britannia, Clerical Medical, Commercial Union, Eagle Star, Friends Provident, General Accident, Legal & General, Lincoln National, M&G, M&G, NPL, National Mutual, Norwich Union, Old Mutual, Prudential, Scottish Mutual, Scottish Widows, Scottish Equitable, and Standard Life.

Q What do I need to watch out for?

A You should ensure your policy covers you for premiums until your retirement. Otherwise you may be unemployed but unable to keep up contributions. If you intend premiums to increase with inflation or be index-linked, you should check that the policy will increase this way too.

Q Are all professions covered?

A You need to check with the company providing the policy, because some very high-risk occupations may not be covered or may attract high premiums. If you have followed a career and developed very specialised skills it is very important to have the "own occupation" clause, since finding new employment may be difficult and you may be too old or unwilling to go for retraining.

Q What about risks such as dangerous sports?

A A number of companies will not give you protection if you make a habit of doing dangerous sports. This may even include skiing. Some insurers exclude claims which might arise during or after pregnancy. Terms are often so ambiguous that it is very important to check exactly what is covered.

Q My pension company is on the "own job" list. Does this mean I am fully covered?

A You need to check that you have the extra protection, since waiver of premium policies are not compulsory. In addition, most companies delay paying any premiums for six months, during which time you are expected to make contributions from your own resources.

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Come to the cabaret

The cabaret at the Building Societies Association conference dinner featured an impromptu ditty based on some of the industry's overriding obsessions, including carpetbaggers. But although the delegates may have sniggered at the song, they find the subject of speculators anything but entertaining. Those societies who say they wish to remain independent could talk of little else than the need to curb those who commit the heinous crime of opening an account in the hope of a payout.

Fortunately, however, their attempts to impose their views on the eminently sensible Angela Knight, the Treasury Economic Secretary, were unsuccessful. This piece of good news for savers should cause the societies pause for thought.

They should realise no government would be likely to stand in the way of the distribution of £20 billion-worth of legally gotten gains



COMMENT
ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

to more than ten million savers and borrowers. This is the amount of largesse that will be spread among the population by the societies now headed for the stock market or takeover.

The societies should also recognise that no rules will impede speculators, while the societies' own behaviour does everything to encourage them.

Take the Birmingham Midshires, for example. It is one of the most vociferous lobbyists for the strengthening of the anti-carpetbagger two-year rule, under which no saver of less than two years' standing with a society

can receive a cash payout on a takeover or flotation. The society this week at first denied, then confirmed, its interest in acquiring the West Bromwich, its smaller neighbour, in a charade calculated to send savers with sufficient funds scurrying to both societies.

Instead of finding ways to protect their societies — and comfortable jobs — building society chiefs should be thinking of ways to retain customers.

For Peter Davis, chief executive of the Prudential is coming, cheque book in hand, ready to both buy societies and steal their cus-

tomers for his new bank. When Mr Davis says he wants to be a building society, it may be as much of a threat as a compliment.

Small cost

THE home income plan scandal of the Eighties left pensioners with huge losses. Its tragic effects continue, with many of its 80-year old victims yet to be compensated.

Now the appeal of the safer type of plan is being damaged by Treasury obstinacy. As we report on page 30, the reduction in mortgage tax relief has reduced the payouts for non-taxpayers.

A simple amendment restoring the value of the tax relief to its previous level would cost little and would benefit some of the most deserving among our elderly. To gain a little extra cash, they have practised the self-help which the Government likes to promote. They now deserve a small concession.

Bidder stalks West Brom

Caroline Merrell
on the takeover
manoeuvres at
two Midland
building societies



Angela Knight refused to give a ruling on carpetbagging

Bid speculation was rife this week at the Building Societies Association annual conference in Birmingham. In particular, the spotlight fell on two Midlands-based societies — Birmingham Midshires and the West Bromwich.

The former has been known to have been interested in the smaller West Bromwich for some time. Any merger would produce the sixth biggest society — making it the most dominant in the Midlands, with a total of 168 branches. Angela Knight, the Treasury Economic Secretary, who was also at the conference refused to bring in legislation to stop people opening speculative accounts.

The £7.7 billion Birming-

ham Midshires made its first overture to the £1.5 billion West Bromwich five weeks ago. Its advances have fallen on stony ground.

Andrew Messenger, chief executive, said: "The West Bromwich is committed to remaining a strong, wholly

independent mutual building society. We have a rosy future and have absolutely no intention of being taken over." A merger between the two societies would not necessarily bring a bonus to the 300,000 members of the West Bromwich. A mutual society

can only pay a bonus of up to 5 per cent of the balances. If it wants to pay out more, it has to ask its members for permission — which could be extremely hazardous, as the society risks alienating its own membership.

Both these societies are takeover targets for the large number of predators looking to buy. Neither can afford to offer the type of mutuality packages offered by the Bradford & Bingley, Nationwide, Britannia and Yorkshire, and neither would be able to float.

The West Bromwich members and the 800,000 members of Birmingham Midshires could stand to gain more if they were taken over by another bigger institution.

The Prudential and Lloyds Bank, through Cheltenham & Gloucester, are known to be on the acquisition trail. The Prudential has been linked to a number of societies, including the Woolwich and Birmingham Midshires. The Pru is likely to want to buy a larger nationwide society which has a strong brand.

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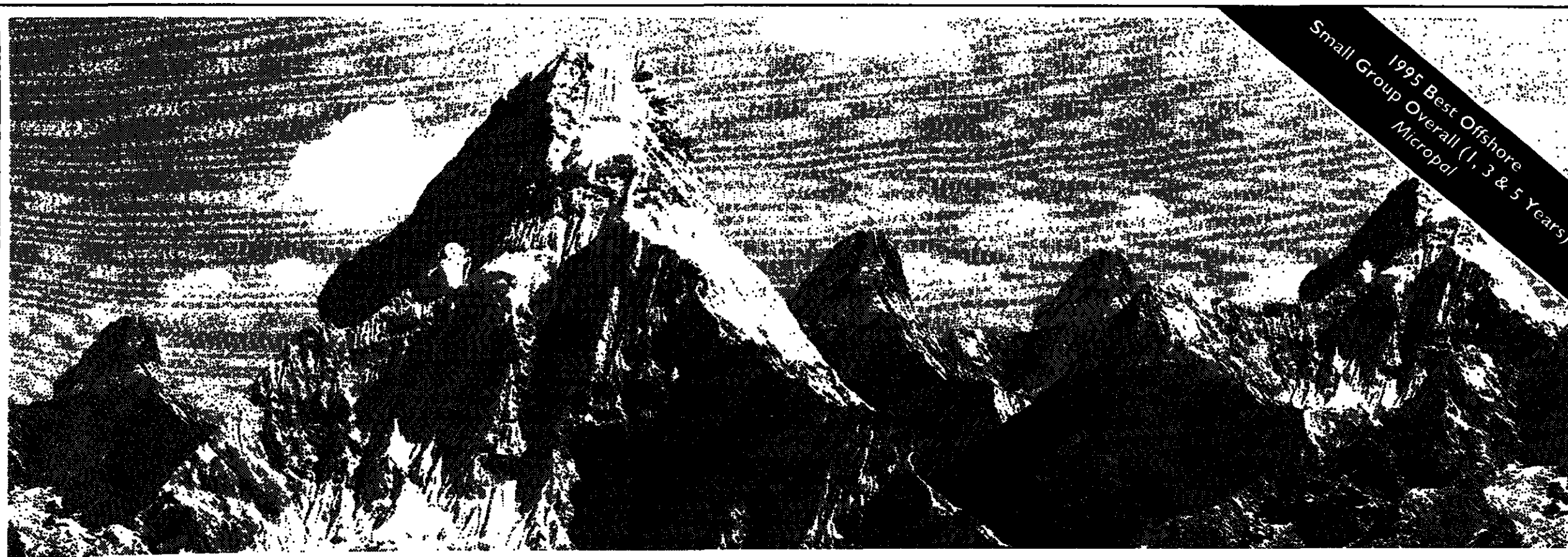
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American Growth	+109%	1 out of 15	AAA
Far Eastern Growth	+428%	1 out of 19	AAA
Japanese Growth	+447%	9 out of 86	AAA
European Growth	+163%	4 out of 7	AAA
UK Growth	+289%	1 out of 30	AAA
Asian Smaller Firms	+91%	13 out of 36	AAA
Latin American Growth	+8%	10 out of 22	AAA
Global Bond	+16%	116 out of 124	AAA



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Woolwich	3.5%	2.7%	2.1%
Inflation	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%
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MoneyBuilder Cash	5.5%	4.2%	3.3%
Abbey National	2.9%	2.2%	1.7%
Halifax	2.9%	2.2%	1.7%
Woolwich	2.4%	1.8%	1.4%
Inflation	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%

Source: MoneyFacts May '96 edition. **On balance of £5,000. Unlike a bank or building society, the value of your investment in MoneyBuilder Income PEP will fluctuate.

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Anne Ashworth on an unfriendly move by Friends Provident

The zero option



Susan Waddington objects to the timing and lack of explanation for rising management charges at Friends Provident

Rivalling the debate on the size of boardroom salaries in recent months has been the question of how much a fund management firm should receive for its services.

The focus recently brought to bear on the initial and annual charges deducted from investments in unit trusts and personal equity plans (Peps) has forced many groups to decrease their fees, sometimes to zero. Legal & General, for example, last month abolished the initial charges on all its unit trusts. These cuts are a victory for investors who have, for years, seen their returns diminished by high charges.

The fees and charges debate, however, seems to have gone unheard at Friends Provident. The life insurance group founded by Quakers. Last month investors were astonished to learn that, entirely against the trend elsewhere, annual management charges at 11 unit trusts were being raised.

They include the group's income trusts and its Stewardship ethical trusts. Their share will also be increased to 5.75 per cent from 5 per cent in the initial charge on four trusts.

Among those angered by the brief note announcing these changes was Susan Waddington, an independent financial adviser from Bury in Lancashire. The clients of Mrs

Waddington's firm, Wyndale Life & Pension Consultants, have holdings in the Friends Provident trusts and she herself has a Stewardship trust Pep monthly savings plan.

Mrs Waddington believes that the increases are inspired by Friends Provident's wish to improve its earnings, so as to make itself attractive to a buyer. In common with other

given. She is also suspicious of the timing of the move, made just after the beginning of the tax year. She said: "People have just set up their 1996-97 personal equity plans. If they decide that they object so much to the higher annual management fees that they wish to cash in their plans, the rules mean that they cannot take out another Pep until the

remained the same since the launch of some of the trusts in the late Eighties.

It cites the "additional costs associated with complying with the industry regulators' requirements" and the expense involved in ensuring that the investments in ethical trusts meet all the necessary green or other criteria.

Mrs Waddington, however, points out that, although all groups must abide by the rules imposed by the investment regulatory bodies, most have been able to drop their fees.

John Woodard, marketing manager of Friends Provident, defended his group's action to *The Times*, saying: "We could have raised our charges four years ago when many of our competitors were doing so. We're getting flak now because we held off then."

He said that the charges on Friends Provident ethical trusts were not out of line with other trusts in the sector, which have initial charges ranging from 3.75 to 6 per cent.

But Jason Hollands of BEST Investment, the independent Pep analysis group, pointed out that all groups carry out extensive research when choosing investments. He said: "The average initial charge used to be 5 per cent. It's now nearer 3 per cent. It's also a bit rich to raise both the initial charge and annual management fee."

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two independent Pep research houses, BEST Investment (0171-321 0100) and Allenbridge Group (0500 551000), can negotiate initial fee discounts on trusts and Peps.

BEST Investment's Jason Hollands explains that someone investing £20,000 through his company could receive a discount of as much as 4 per cent on a 5 per cent initial charge.

mutual life insurance companies, Friends is seen as a likely takeover target, with Halifax Building Society and NatWest Bank being mentioned as possible bidders.

Mrs Waddington objects not only to the suddenness of the change in charges, but also to the lack of explanation

beginning of the next tax year. As a result, they are locked in."

She wrote to Friends Provident, asking the company to justify its action, but is not satisfied with the reply she received this week. In the letter, Friends Provident argues that its move is reasonable, as charges have

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How to spread your savings wider



Helen Pridham introduces
a new series on unit
and investment trusts

This week's slide in the price of British Gas shares has underlined the risks of investing in individual shares, privatisations or not. With interest rates on building society accounts at rock bottom, though, there is little attraction in stashing all your cash away there either.

Less than 10 per cent of the population invest in unit and investment trusts which pool the money of small savers in a fund that is normally invested in a portfolio of shares by a professional investment manager. Typically they will hold shares in 50-100 companies, so the risk is spread widely.

They are low cost compared with insurance products and flexible - you are not locked in for a specific investment term, though as with all share related investments you should normally think in terms of five to ten years to get the best results. They will take investments from about £500 or £1,000, or monthly savings of £30.

On average, unit and investment trusts have outperformed building society deposits over the medium to long

term. Personal equity plans (PEPs), which allow tax-free holdings, have attracted increasing numbers of traditional building society investors.

The snag is that most unit and investment trusts do involve some risk. The value of your investment can fall, though usually only temporarily. While spreading money across a number of shares means you will not lose out if one company goes bust, it does not protect you against a general fall in the stock market.

One of the advantages of investing through unit and investment trusts is that they overcome the problem faced by many small investors, such as those in privatisations, who have found that while buying shares is relatively easy, it is much more difficult to decide on the right time to sell. In a unit or investment trust, the fund manager takes the buying and selling decisions for you.

Stuart Valentine of ProShare, the organisation which promotes wider share ownership, says: "The trouble is that many people were forced

into a diet of privatisation issues and they didn't really consider how they were going to deal with them after acquisition. For most first-time equity investors, unit and investment trusts are a more suitable alternative."

Many people come to unit and investment trusts when they reach retirement and have a lump sum from their pension scheme to invest. Financial advisers, such as Kean Seager of Whitechurch Securities, often recommend putting a portion of this money into unit or investment trusts to provide long-term growth of income

and capital during retirement.

He says: "Naturally, my recommendations depend on a client's individual circumstances, but as a starting point I would normally suggest a split of around 20 per cent cash, 40 per cent lower-risk investments such as fixed interest securities and with-

profits bonds, and 40 per cent unit or investment trusts."

It is not only novice stock market investors for whom unit and investment trusts are attractive. Private client stockbrokers now recommend trusts rather than shares to many of their clients. Hambros Bambi of Quilter & Co says: "Shares are only suitable if

you have at least £100,000 to invest. For clients with less capital, we believe unit and investment trusts provide better diversification of risk."

At Gerrard Vivian Gray, the stockbroker, Mark Searle says: "Management of unit and investment trust portfolios is now the fastest growing part of our business."

Investors are frequently unsure about the differences between unit and investment trusts and they are also sometimes confused with investment bonds. This is not surprising as there are many similarities. They all offer a choice of professionally managed investment funds. Investment

bonds, however, are the least suitable choice for most people because they are less tax efficient. They are single premium life insurance policies and the life companies must pay capital gains tax on the funds, even though the investor is not liable.

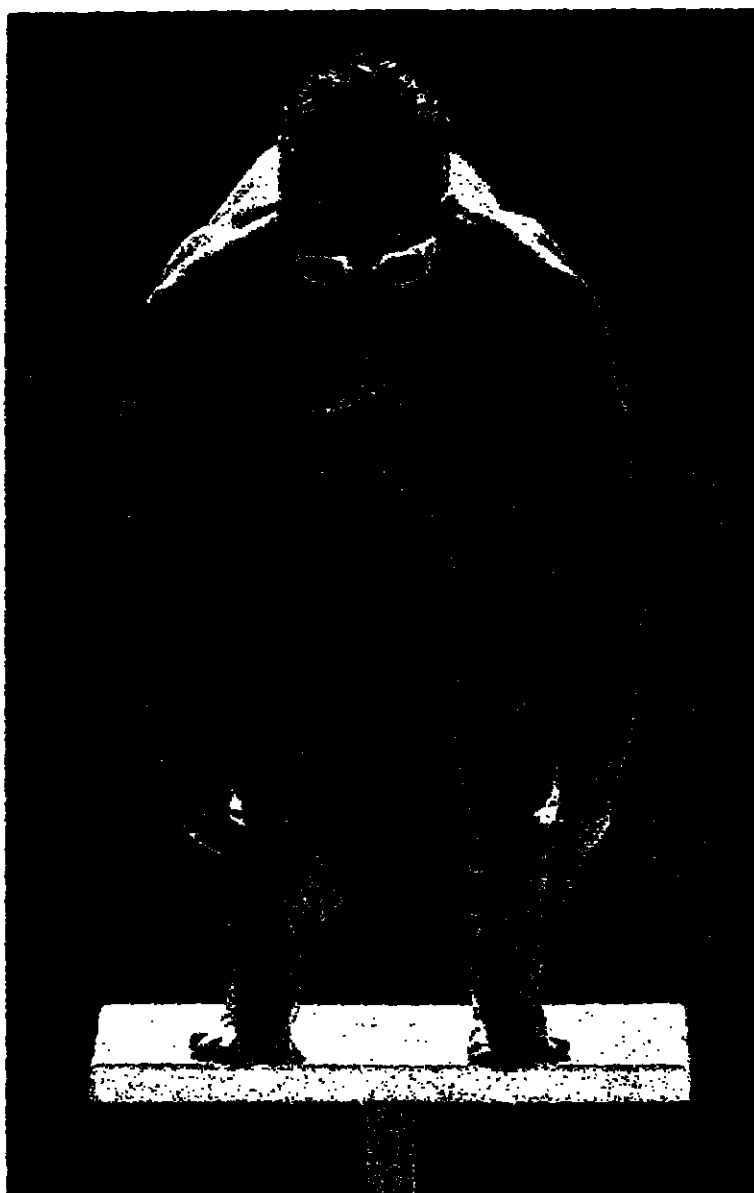
The tax position of unit and investment trusts is identical. They are not subject to tax on any capital gains made from the sale of assets in their portfolios. Investors are liable to capital gains tax, but only if their gains exceed their annual exemption limit, currently £6,300. Income from the trusts is paid net of tax, with a tax credit of 20 per cent which can be reclaimed by investors who are non-taxpayers. Basic-rate taxpayers have no more tax to pay, but a 40 per cent taxpayer will be liable to a further 20 per cent in tax on the gross dividend. If a trust is held within a PEP, all dividends and capital gains are tax-free.

Charges are similar on both trusts. Initial purchase costs are normally between 1 and 5 per cent and annual management charges are about 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent.

Unit trusts are divided into units and the value of each unit rises and falls in line with the value of the shares in the fund. Investment trusts are companies with a fixed amount of capital. Investors buy shares in the company. The price of the shares reflects the investment trust's assets and supply and demand for the shares. The share price may stand at a discount or a premium to the value of the assets in the trust.

The Unit Trust Information Service is on 0181 207 1361 and the Association of Investment Trust Companies information line is on 0171 431 5222.

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Oasis and the art of investment

Robert Miller on a new Islamic fund based on the principles of Sharia

DR ABDUL Samar Abu Ghuddah of the Islamic Fiqh Academy in Jeddah is not a generally well-known investment figure in this country. On Monday that could change when Oasis, an Islamic international equity fund, is rolled out, initially to the estimated two million-strong British Islamic community, but with the prospect that the concept may eventually catch on with a wider UK audience.

Flemings, one of the City's leading international investment banks, has worked on Oasis, a Luxembourg umbrella fund, for almost 18 months. As a member of the Oasis Sharia Supervisory Board, Dr Ghuddah and two colleagues, Justice Mohamed Taqi al-Uthmani and Dr Nazih Hamud, will ensure that every investment in the fund's international portfolio conforms to the strict principles of Sharia, the Islamic law. The three men have strong links with the Islamic Fiqh Academy - Fiqh is Islamic jurisprudence.

The basic principles of Sharia are not dissimilar to those of the more familiar UK ethical funds. Certain activities, such as alcohol and gambling, are totally unacceptable.

But Sharia is different in one key aspect and that is on the question of usury. Oasis, which could add an emerging markets sub-fund to the present international equity one, will avoid Western financial services companies - so banks and insurers are out. In the same way, it is not possible to open an interest-bearing building society or bank current account. Usury in this sense covers interest paid and interest earned. Similarly, companies that have

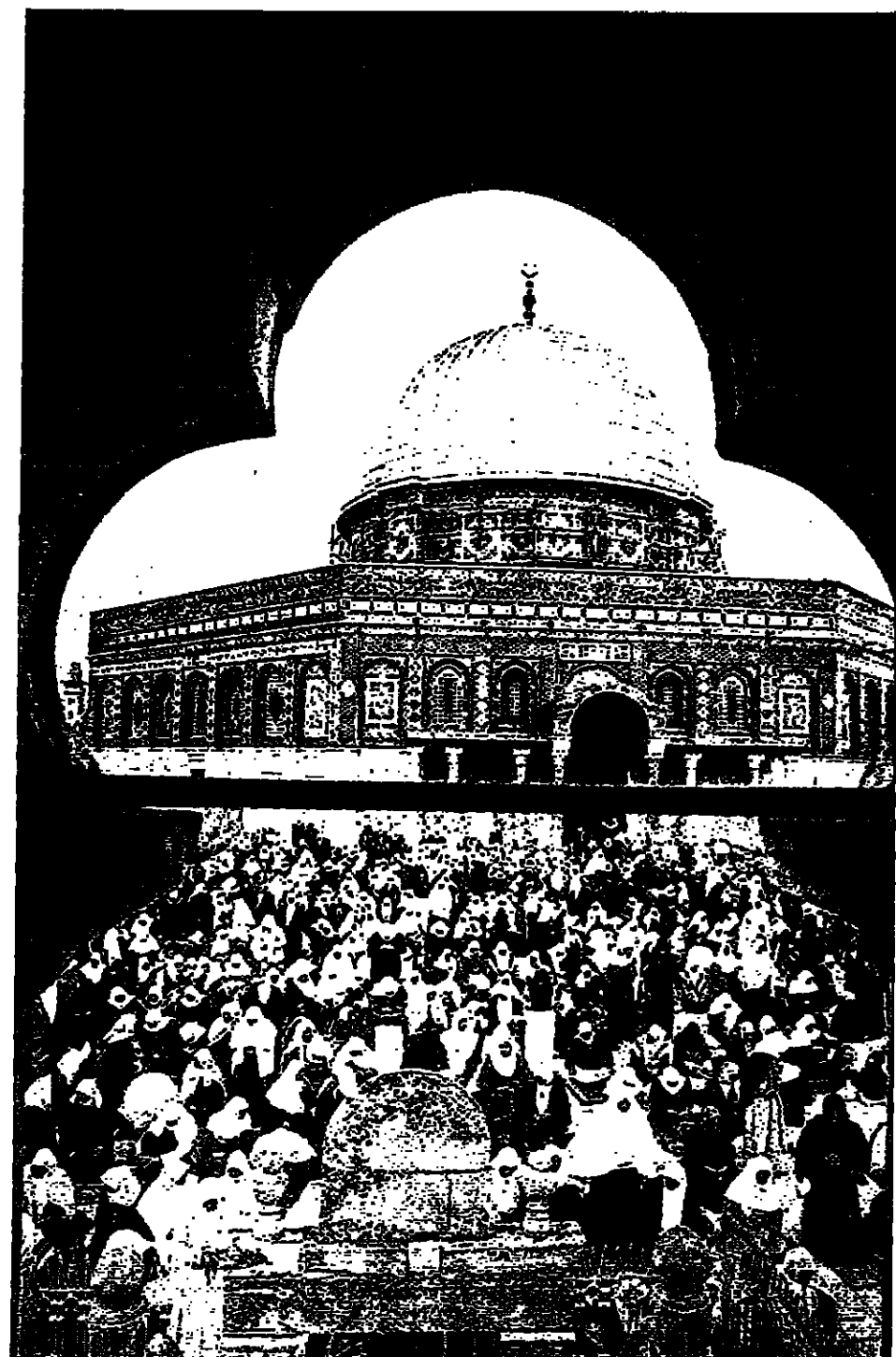


borrowed heavily will be excluded.

Neil Honebon, the Oasis manager, will measure the level of a company's gearing against the Morgan Stanley Capital International Index average of 56 per cent. To qualify for inclusion in the Oasis portfolio of up to 150 companies that includes Toyota, Cable and Wireless and Roche, the Swiss drugs combine, the firm in question will have to have gearing significantly below that figure.

Even with the supervisory board, some of the Oasis profits might breach the strict Sharia code, so the fund's deeds include a "purification" process separating out such moneys to donate to Islamic charities. Flemings estimates that the total annual cost of being Islamically correct is unlikely to be more than 1 per cent. To minimise the performance impact of such deductions, purification by taking away the amount representing interest received by companies in the portfolio will be carried out weekly. Shane O'Riordan, the Flemings manager responsible for promoting Oasis, says the group's investment performance should overcome the cost of Sharia compliance.

Although Oasis makes its UK debut on Monday, it was launched in February, initially to the \$100 billion international Islamic investment market, dominated by Saudi Arabia which accounts for half of the world total. The other Gulf states are also important Islamic



Good causes: Impure profits from Oasis will be separated out for Islamic charities

markets, followed by the Far East and then Europe.

The minimum investment in Oasis, which has to date raised \$7 million out of a target range of \$100-\$150 million, is a hefty \$50,000. Flemings will, however, allow pooling via authorised independent financial advisers with several investors combining to make up the minimum.

Oasis details: 0990 662 747.

Jupiter's demanding target

THE new Jupiter UK Special Situations unit trust, launched this week, has set a demanding target by choosing just 40 or 50 companies to invest in, from a universe of 1,000 or more.

Alan Miller, the fund's manager, says he is seeking the most undervalued, high quality companies for inclusion in the portfolio and to that extent their sector or speciality is irrelevant. About 75 per cent of the proposed portfolio will come from the smaller companies category with the remainder from the FT-SE 100 index.

Mr Miller is particularly

keen on companies where the management has a significant stake in the firm and thus its future performance. He will also look for consistent year-on-year free cashflows and superior profits growth.

The new Jupiter unit trust, which is "fully qualifying" in PEP terms, has set a modest initial target, which is to raise just £5 million. "If the fund performs as we expect it to, we hope to attract about £50 million within 12 months on the back of a sound investment performance," says Mr Miller, who has previously worked for Gartmore and Hermes Investment Manage-

ment. In spite of political uncertainty and a looming general election in less than 12 months' time, Mr Miller believes the UK stock market is "firmly underpinned".

Minimum investment is £500 for the straightforward unit trust or £2,000 for the PEP. Alternatively there is a £100 a month savings scheme attached to the PEP. The charges for the Jupiter unit trust are at the top end of the industry scale with a 5.25 per cent initial fee and an annual charge of 1.5 per cent. More details on 0500 050 097.

ROBERT MILLER

The Witan PEP

£1,000 invested in WITAN in 1924, when the company's shares were first offered to the public, would now be worth no less than £3.9 million*.

*Figures for Witan's performance since 1924 are based on Henderson Touche Remnant and are based on net asset value at 1.7.24 and 29.2.96, assuming net income reinvested. (Source: ATTC Services Ltd as at 29.2.96 based on their price paid for shares in a real market and not on a theoretical basis with no income reinvested and excluding transaction costs. (Source: Henderson as at 1.3.96 based on a higher net building society account with net income reinvested. Please remember that past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the return from it are both as well as the result of market and currency fluctuations and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Tax assumptions may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief will depend upon past individual circumstances.

The Witan PEP offers the full tax advantages of a PEP and is an ideal core holding for an investment portfolio.

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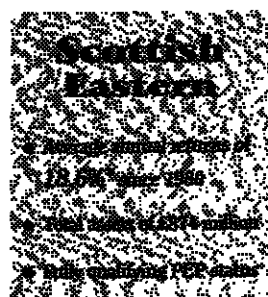
BRITAIN'S LEADING INVESTMENT HOUSE

*Source: Mitrail. All figures are to 1st May 1996 based on the selling price with net income reinvested. Since launch in August 1993 the Fund has achieved a total return of 32.9%. Comparative ranking: Mitrail Unit Trust Emerging Markets sector. The 2% discount applies to the offer price of units. The value of investments may fluctuate and is not guaranteed. Past performance is no guarantee of future performance. Please note that this is a high-risk fund and is therefore suitable only for those investors prepared to accept the above-average volatility and risk inherent in emerging markets investment. Changes in exchange rates may cause the value of an investment to fluctuate. This advertisement relates to the packaged products of, and is issued by, Mercury Fund Managers Ltd (incorporated in England and Wales). Authority: the unit trust management arm of Mercury Asset Management Ltd (incorporated in England and Wales). Telephone: 0171-639 6071.

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Keep it regular

Paul Slade says
savings schemes
can give small
investors the best
long-term return

Most people's investment concern is not deciding what to do with a lump sum of £5,000, but finding the best home for the £25 a month they have left over after paying the bills.

Even with as little as this to invest, your choice need not be limited to the bank and building society. Unit trusts and investment trusts operate savings schemes which will accept as little as £25 a month, pumping your money into the stock market, where you should be able to get a better return in the long term.

Savings accounts

Having for a while concentrated all their efforts on savers with four-figure sums, many building societies are again offering regular savings accounts. Some have a minimum monthly investment of as little as £1. Most of these accounts require that you make a contribution each month and penalise those who fail to do so.

Restrictions may also be imposed on withdrawals, with some societies only allowing you access to your cash at the end of a fixed term. The Bradford & Bingley, for example, is currently paying a rate of 6.75 per cent on its three-year term Monthly Saver account, where the minimum saving is £10 and the maximum £100. No withdrawals are allowed until the three years are up. The Nationwide's Bonus Saver account permits six withdrawals a year. But to reward those who leave their money untouched and make 11 consecutive payments, it pays a 3.25 per cent bonus on top of the normal rate of 2.75 per cent.



No costly slip-ups: it pays to keep in step with your investments for the best rates

Minimum monthly investment is £1, and there is no maximum.

The Scarborough Keepsafe Bond, a two-year term account, pays 7 per cent (mini-

mum monthly investment £15, maximum £150). Again no withdrawals are allowed until the end of the term.

Unit trusts

Traditionally, equity markets have provided a better return than bank and building society savings. According to Micropal, the fund performance monitors, someone placing £25 a month in an average UK growth unit trust over the five years to May 1, 1996, reinvesting income as they went along, would find their investment was now worth £2,236. That compares to £1,695 from the average building society 90-day account. The top-performing UK growth trust over the same period would have given a return of £2,942. Foreign & Colonial runs one of the most popular investment trust savings schemes, with 110,000 investors.

Anyone contemplating starting a trust savings plan should be clear that switching

from deposits to equities is a substantial step up in risk. However, regular savings should be safer than placing a lump sum on the stock market. This is thanks to a process known as pounds cost averaging. This allows you to avoid the risk of committing all your funds to the market just as it peaks. Drip-feeding money into the market gradually helps to smooth out short-term peaks and troughs.

Like any equity investment, you should be prepared to commit the money in a unit trust or investment trust savings scheme for at least five years. The beauty of collective investment schemes such as unit trusts and investment trusts is that they spread your risk across many different companies. Most small investors will be best off with a UK unit trust as this is the market they will feel most comfortable with.

See page 34 for more information on unit and investment trusts

TOP TRUSTS

Top 10 UK equity growth unit trusts with return on monthly £25 investment over five years to May 1, 1996.

TRUST Value after 5 years

Jupiter UK Growth	£2,942
PM Equity Growth	£2,834
Fidelity Special Sit	£2,787
Cred. Suis Fellowship	£2,741
Fidelity Recovery	£2,706
Pembroke Growth	£2,617
Schroder UK Ent	£2,603
Fidelity UK Growth	£2,532
Barclay Spec Sit	£2,530
Mart Currie UK Grth	£2,514

Bid-to-bid prices, net income reinvested

Source: Micropal

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£5,000+	6.15%	4.92%	5.98%	4.79%

**Minimum balance in each option is £5,000.

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Sky high: New York's banks seem to charge their account holders with impunity

American dream or a nightmare for customers?

As the free banking era closes in Britain, Richard Thomson looks at the US example

Free banking, enjoyed by the British for close to two decades, is under threat as the high street banks prepare to launch special current account packages with annual fees and added extras.

The aim is to increase revenues from those customers who stay obstinately in credit and make no money for the bank.

British banks have long cast envious eyes on their transatlantic counterparts who charge their customers with impunity. But the high price of US banking does not necessarily ensure good service.

I never thought I would ever come across a bank that would turn money away — until I tried to open an account in America. But then, banking in the US is a strange, Alice-in-Wonderland experience where nothing is quite what you expect and the usual attitudes seem topsy-turvy to say the least.

Most Americans have tales of frustration and inefficiency in dealings with their banks. The system seems creaky, antiquated and poor value for money. It is particularly infuriating because, once you have an account, you are charged for everything.

The biggest fee is simply for the privilege of maintaining the account — the kind of fee that Barclays and others are introducing in Britain.

Free banking is an alien concept in the US. Most New York banks charge about \$9.50 a month on a basic account, although this is often waived if the balance is kept at more than about

\$5,000. Bizarrely, the fee goes shooting up if you have a very large balance. On deposits of \$25,000 or more, Chemical Bank charges a savage \$25 a month.

But the charges do not stop there. You have to buy your cheque book — usually around \$20 for 200 cheques. Then you are charged every time you write a cheque — around 35 cents each time.

Customers are charged the same amount for using the cash machine, but if you use a cash machine belonging to a different bank you are likely to be charged up to \$1. It is enough to make you think that British banks, for

The lesson to be learnt is that high charges don't necessarily make for better banking

all their inefficiencies, really aren't so bad after all.

The lesson to be learnt from the US, unfortunately, is that high charges don't necessarily make for better banking. If you were hoping that the service you get from Barclays or any other high street bank will instantly improve when they start charging you for every breath you take inside their branches, think again.

What services can you expect from a high-charging US bank? Not much. Most inconvenient is probably the lack of standing orders. For

regular payments such as rent or utilities bills, you have to write a cheque each month because the bank will not do it automatically.

And cheques, by the way, take an unspecified number of days to clear, whether they are payments or deposits.

An American friend paying in a tax-refund cheque recently was told that it would take at least a week to clear. To get it cleared faster she had to go through a tiresome procedure of filling in forms and producing ID. Yet again, the bank did not seem particularly keen to take her money.

As a sop to their hard-pressed customers, many banks make special offers of things like free insurance, but the offers are usually so mean they seem more like an insult to the intelligence.

My own bank, Chase Manhattan, recently offered me free life insurance of \$1,000. The trouble is that \$1,000 hardly goes anywhere in New York City. The real point of the offer, of course, was to try to get me to buy a whole lot more insurance from the bank, which would then have received a nice commission from the insurance company.

Savings accounts tend to fare a little better, although you are still paying handsomely for the privilege of letting the bank have your money. Chase charges \$5 a month for its ordinary savings account. For term accounts, the penalties for early withdrawal can be very heavy indeed.

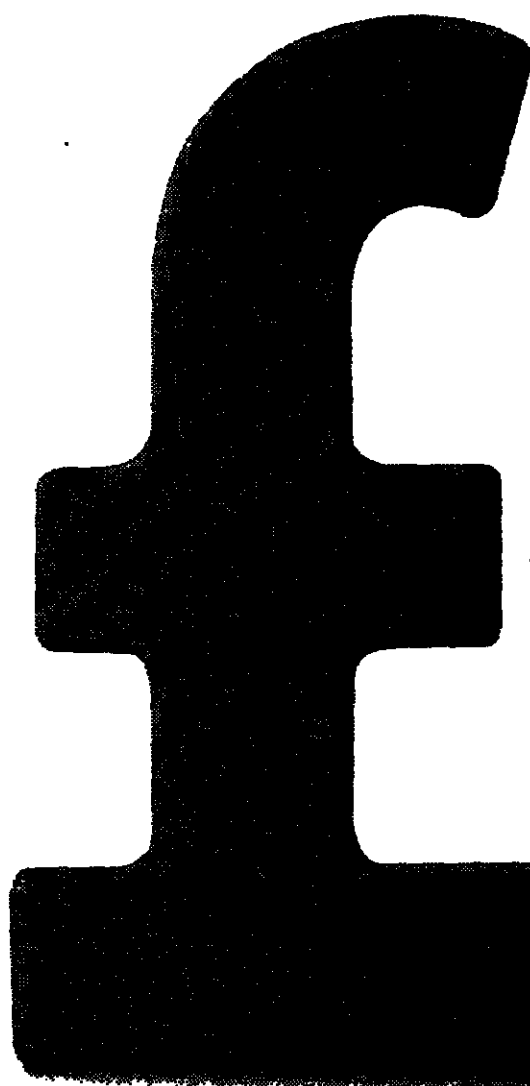
Some of the US inefficiency is due to the fear that customers will misuse their accounts, perhaps by borrowing money and not repaying it.

New York banks seem to be particularly vulnerable to this — people from elsewhere in the US report that their banks work slightly better and are a little less suspicious of their customers. Yet few people feel they get such satisfactory service from their banks that it is worth all the charges they have to pay.

One can only hope that this is not the model the British banks have in mind as they start to crank out their new bells-and-whistles high-charging accounts.

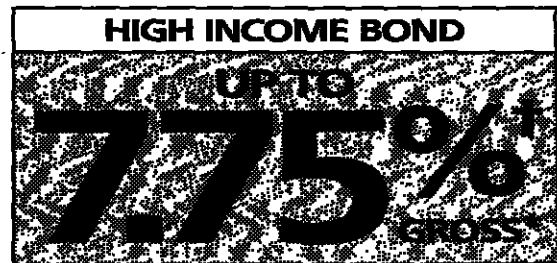
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ANNUAL INCOME
 Reported at March 16, 1936

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01682 500 677)

Issue	Buying	% Gross	Minimum purchase
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PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101

Year	Percent
1950	10
1960	15
1970	20
1980	25
1990	30

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	N
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0%¹ LARGER LOANS

Building Societies				
Hinckley & Rugby	0.11	£1-150k	70	7

Page 10 of 10

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

in Lf of Can.....Level	£9,002	£9,568	£10,378
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Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 568 9393)

Order	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
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BB Bank	3.51	£15k+	95	3.74% discount
Local branch				for 12 months

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd.
 For further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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Bid Offer +/- %				Bid Offer +/- %			
UNITED LIFE INVESTMENTS							
Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH1 2YE				Financial Assurance			
Unit 1	224.70	236.80	+0.20	European	211.00	222.30	+4.00
Unit 2	225.00	237.00	+0.20	Phoenix Assurance	210.00	221.00	+0.00
Unit 3	225.00	237.00	+0.20	Royal Exchange Ltd	547.00	553.10	+7.60
Unit 4	225.00	237.00	+0.20	Scottish Life	210.00	221.00	+0.00
Unit 5	225.00	237.00	+0.20	Property Fund	60.00	60.00	+0.00
Unit 6	225.00	237.00	+0.20	Scottish Life	210.00	221.00	+0.00
Unit 7	225.00	237.00	+0.20	Scottish Life	210.00	221.00	+0.00
Unit 8	225.00	237.00	+0.20	Scottish Life	210.00	221.00	+0.00
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Unit 142	225.00	237.00	+0.20	Scottish Life	210.00	221	

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1996	Low	High	Open	Close	Change	%	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
555	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
556	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
557	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
558	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
559	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
560	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
561	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
562	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
563	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
564	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
565	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
566	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
567	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
568	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
569	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
570	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
571	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
572	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
573	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
574	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
575	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
576	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
577	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
578	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
579	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
580	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
581	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
582	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
583	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
584	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
585	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
586	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
587	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
588	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
589	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
590	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
591	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
592	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
593	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
594	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
595	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
596	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
597	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
598	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
599	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
600	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5

1996	Low	High	Open	Close	Change	%	PE
BANKS							
3555	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3556	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3557	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3558	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3559	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3560	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3561	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3562	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3563	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3564	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3565	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3566	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3567	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3568	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3569	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3570	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3571	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3572	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3573	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3574	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3575	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3576	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3577	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3578	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3579	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3580	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3581	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3582	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3583	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3584	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3585	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3586	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3587	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3588	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3589	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3590	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3591	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3592	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3593	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3594	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3595	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3596	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3597	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3598	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3599	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
3600	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5

1996	Low	High	Open	Close	Change	%	PE
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST							
355	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
356	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
357	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
358	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
359	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
360	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
361	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
362	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
363	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
364	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
365	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
366	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
367	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
368	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
369	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
370	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
371	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
372	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
373	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
374	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
375	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
376	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
377	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
378	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
379	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
380	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
381	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
382	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
383	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
384	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
385	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
386	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
387	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
388	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
389	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
390	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
391	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
392	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
393	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
394	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
395	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
396	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
397	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
398	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
399	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
400	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5

1996	Low	High	Open	Close	Change	%	PE
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS							
355	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
356	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
357	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
358	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
359	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
360	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
361	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
362	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
363	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
364	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
365	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
366	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
367	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
368	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
369	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
370	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
371	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
372	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
373	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
374	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
375	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
376	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
377	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
378	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
379	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
380	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
381	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
382	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
383	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5
384	100	105	102	104	+2	2.0	11.5

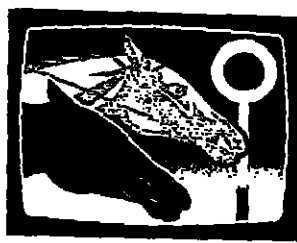
Sheer Danzig has conditions to suit

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE notion that "Sunday is Sunday" at the races should be upheld at Newbury tomorrow — unless you happen to be a professional gambler. Lightning and Wolf, of *Gladiators* fame, line up alongside sky drivers, horse-drawn carriages, a choir and concert band to vie for the attention of spectators and prize entertainment for the family. However, unless backers are cautious, the beneficiaries of the main proceedings will be the bookmakers.

Three hideously tricky handicaps, which have attracted no fewer than 52 runners, are complemented by two maiden races for which the form book would provide sufficient evidence to make a strong case for a bet.

The Starlight Express Limited Stakes, the first televised race at 3.00, is theoretically the easiest to solve, given that there are only seven runners, mostly with exposed form. However, the puzzle posed by the small field is considerable. Christmas Kiss is the form choice, having improved considerably at Lingfield eight days ago when blinkers were applied for the first time.



TOMORROW'S RACING ON TELEVISION

However, Richard Hannon's filly has run best on fast ground and could be found wanting here. It could pay to risk the lightly raced Zymo, who shaped promisingly on his seasonal reappearance behind Regal Archive at Kempton six weeks ago. I was surprised to read

now that he has conditions to suit. He carries my nap.

Armstrong rates the son of the colt, having missed an intended engagement at York earlier this week, when the ground was unsuitably fast. Others to consider are Grand Du Lac, who showed improved form on his seasonal reappearance behind Tarawa at Ascot, and Censor. The latter looks leniently weighted given his proximity to Regal Archive at Sandown 23 days ago.

John Dunlop has few peers when it comes to successfully stepping horses up in trip and Orchestra Stall improved when making a winning handicap debut at Ripon over two miles. The Old Vic gelding is open to further improvement and should go close in the Sunset Boulevard Handicap (4.00).

However, Rocky Forum, caught my eye on his seasonal reappearance at Sandown three weeks ago and is nominated a sporting next best. She stayed on most resolutely behind Darter and Gary Moore believes she will benefit considerably from that run.

MILTON PARK

6.20 Best Kept Secret, 6.50 Enchanting Eve, 7.20 Guards Brigade, 7.50 Ride Solly Ride, 8.20 Steadfast Elite, 8.50 Candle Smile.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW: 5F-H, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.20 PATRICK & KATHLEEN McCLOSKEY APPRENTICE HANDICAP (2,498: 5f 4yd) (14 runners)

1 0000 ULTRA BEST 1 (B.D.F.S.) P. Hannon 4-10 C. Dwyer (13)
2 0102 DIRT 6 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 10-10 C. Dwyer (12)
3 0022 BEST KEPT SECRET 8 (B.D.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0111 HENRY THE HAWK 9 (D.O.F.S.) M. Dods 5-10 P. Hannon (11)
5 0033 PRINCESTON 6 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0007 NATURAL NEXT 4 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0004 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0002 RED TAIL 10 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
9 0009 LINDSEY PRINCESS 9 (B.D.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
10 0014 KENNELA 4 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
11 0005 CHEERFUL CHAPPY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
12 0016 KELLYWAY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
13 0018 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
14 0020 SECONDS AWAY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 Henry The Hawk, 5-1 Best Kept Secret, 5-1 Lindseey Princess, 5-1 DIRT, 10-1 Steadfast Elite, 10-1 others.

6.50 ISLE OF ARRAN CLAIMING STAKES (2-Y-O: 2,521: 6f 5yd) (6)

1 3804 HONEY ONLY 16 (B.D.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0000 SMOULDER FROM CAPTAIN 14 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 1100 ENCHANTING EVE 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0213 CONTRAVENTION 11 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0022 EXOTIC PRINCE 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0018 FLOORS LIVER 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 Enchanting Eve, 2-1 Contravention, 4-1 Exotic Prince, 10-1 Floors Liver, 10-1 others.

7.20 ARIZONA HANDICAP (2,552: 1m 5f 1yd) (7)

1 0000 SEASIDE 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0016 MAGIC TIMES 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0018 LINDSEY PRINCESS 9 (B.D.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0007 NATURAL NEXT 4 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0004 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0002 RED TAIL 10 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0009 LINDSEY PRINCESS 9 (B.D.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 Magic Times, 5-1 Lindseey Princess, 5-1 SUNDOWN, 10-1 Natural Next, 10-1 others.

7.40 KING'S LYNN HANDICAP HURDLE (2,538: 2m 1f 11yd) (8)

1 1250 STAC-POLLADRA 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0004 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0012 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0014 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0016 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 Stac-Polladra, 5-1 Murphy, 5-1 others.

6.10 BROUGHTON THERMAL SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (2,766: 2m) (12 runners)

1 0000 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0002 RED TAIL 10 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0004 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0012 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0014 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
9 0016 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
10 0018 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
11 0020 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
12 0022 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 SUNDOWN, 5-1 RED TAIL, 5-1 others.

6.40 HOOD, VORES AND ALLWOOD HUNTERS CHASE (Amateur: 2,664: 3m 11yd) (14)

1 1250 STAC-POLLADRA 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0004 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0012 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0014 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0016 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
9 0018 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
10 0020 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
11 0022 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
12 0024 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
13 0026 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
14 0028 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 Stac-Polladra, 5-1 Murphy, 5-1 others.

4.15 EAST MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY (LINCOLN) HANDICAP CHASE (2,575: 3m 11yd) (5)

1 2322 PHILIP'S MOODY 22 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 2151 WATERFORD CASTLE 14 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
9 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
10 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
11 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
12 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
13 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
14 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 Philip's Moody, 5-1 Waterford Castle, 5-1 Caldwell Chocolate, 5-1 others.

4.30 PHANTOM MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: 2,547: 7f 6yd) (10 runners)

1 0000 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0002 RED TAIL 10 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0004 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0012 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0014 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
9 0016 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
10 0018 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 SUNDOWN, 5-1 RED TAIL, 5-1 others.

4.45 NEWBURY MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: 2,547: 7f 6yd) (10 runners)

1 0000 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0002 RED TAIL 10 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0004 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0012 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0014 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
9 0016 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
10 0018 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 SUNDOWN, 5-1 RED TAIL, 5-1 others.

7.50 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: 2,596: 5f 4yd) (11)

1 0000 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0002 RED TAIL 10 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0004 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0012 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0014 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
9 0016 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
10 0018 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
11 0020 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 SUNDOWN, 5-1 RED TAIL, 5-1 others.

8.20 ISLE OF BUTE SELLING HANDICAP (2,514: 1m 3f 11yd) (17)

1 0000 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0002 RED TAIL 10 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0004 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0012 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0014 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
9 0016 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
10 0018 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
11 0020 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
12 0022 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
13 0024 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
14 0026 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
15 0028 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
16 0030 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
17 0032 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 SUNDOWN, 5-1 RED TAIL, 5-1 others.

8.50 ARIZONA MAIDEN STAKES (2,552: 1m 4f 11yd) (6)

1 0000 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0002 RED TAIL 10 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0004 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 SUNDOWN, 5-1 RED TAIL, 5-1 others.

7.10 PRICE OF WALES CUP HANDICAP CHASE (2,547: 2m 1f 11yd) (8)

1 1250 STAC-POLLADRA 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0004 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0012 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0014 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0016 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 Stac-Polladra, 5-1 Murphy, 5-1 others.

7.40 KING'S LYNN HANDICAP HURDLE (2,538: 2m 1f 11yd) (8)

1 1250 STAC-POLLADRA 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0004 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0012 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0014 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0016 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 Stac-Polladra, 5-1 Murphy, 5-1 others.

8.10 BARCLAYS BANK MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (2,753: 2m 1f 11yd) (13)

1 1250 STAC-POLLADRA 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0004 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0012 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0014 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0016 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
9 0018 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
10 0020 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
11 0022 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
12 0024 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
13 0026 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 Stac-Polladra, 5-1 Murphy, 5-1 others.

8.40 GEORGINA AND PAUL TACON'S WEDDING CELEBRATION NOVICES HURDLE (2,686: 2m 4f) (8)

1 1250 STAC-POLLADRA 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0004 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0012 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0014 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0016 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 Stac-Polladra, 5-1 Murphy, 5-1 others.

4.15 EAST MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY (LINCOLN) HANDICAP CHASE (2,575: 3m 11yd) (5)

1 2322 PHILIP'S MOODY 22 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 2151 WATERFORD CASTLE 14 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
9 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
10 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
11 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
12 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
13 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
14 0121 CALDWAY CHOCOLATE 23 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 Philip's Moody, 5-1 Waterford Castle, 5-1 Caldwell Chocolate, 5-1 others.

4.30 PHANTOM MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: 2,547: 7f 6yd) (10 runners)

1 0000 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0002 RED TAIL 10 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0004 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0012 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0014 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
9 0016 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
10 0018 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 SUNDOWN, 5-1 RED TAIL, 5-1 others.

4.45 NEWBURY MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: 2,547: 7f 6yd) (10 runners)

1 0000 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0002 RED TAIL 10 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0004 SUNDOWN 9 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4 0006 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
5 0008 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
6 0010 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
7 0012 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
8 0014 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
9 0016 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
10 0018 MURPHY 10 (D.O.F.S.) M. P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
4-1 SUNDOWN, 5-1 RED TAIL, 5-1 others.

RIPON TOMORROW

THUNDERER
2.15 Master Of The House, 2.45 Warrin, 3.15 Field Of Violets, 3.45 Broadstairs Beauty, 4.15 Exactly, 4.45 Narda.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.15 FAKH (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.15 SUNDAY IS SUNDAY AT THE RACES SELLING STAKES (2,983: 1m) (20 runners)

1 1004 AVALON 25 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
2 0004 AVALON 25 (D.O.F.S.) P. Hannon 5-11 M. P. Hannon (9)
3 0006 AVALON 25 (D

Grey areas prove worry for Edwards

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN ATLANTA

LOOKING noticeably greyer than last season, with an even shorter haircut, Jonathan Edwards has had eight months to worry. Eight months wondering whether his sorcerer's skills would still be there when he needed them again.

Edwards has never been able to explain his metamorphosis from good but unexceptional triple jumper into world record-holder, world champion, world male athlete of the year and BBC Sports Personality of the Year. "I do not quite know how it all happened and whether it will happen again," Edwards said here as he looked ahead to his first competition of 1996 today.

"I improved a metre having been in athletics eight years and, until I do it again, I will have doubt in my mind," he said. "The last month has been hard because I have been playing through my mind all the scenarios of what might happen."

Might he slip back into being a low 17 metres jumper? Would the nightmare of the 1992 Olympic Games be repeated this year, his failure to break even 16 metres eliminating him before the final?

"I need a competition to reassure myself that I can still do what I did last year," Edwards, 30, said. "The pressure I feel is: 'Can I jump well again?' There are huge expectations but there is a healthy bit of fear in me that thinks it might not happen again."

The indications from training are that his fear is irrational. While in Tallahassee, he exceeded 17 metres off a 14-stride approach. In competition, he takes 18 steps. "I am a little further in training this year than last year, but then I was not jumping in Florida, I was jumping in Jarrow in the cold."

Significantly, he has improved his speed. The personal best 100 metres of 10.48sec, which he ran last week, sits well with his analysis of what sets him apart from other triple jumpers. "It is my ability to maintain my speed at the board and through the phases," he said. With greater speed, perhaps he has not finished with the world record.

Edwards won all 14 of his competitions last season, without one being close, and, if his pre-eminence is to be challenged, it is likely to be more a consequence of

others responding to his world record of 18.29 metres than of him failing to recapture the form of last year. Once the four-minute mile was broken, it opened the floodgates and Edwards believes the same might happen now in the triple jump.

"For ten years, everybody stacked up at about 17.90 metres," he said. "It will be an interesting year to see how everybody has reacted." Francis Agyepong, the European indoor silver medal winner, caught the mood of the opposition. "A lot of guys were crushed and messed up by what he did last year, but now you have to start thinking about 18 metres to compete with him," Agyepong, a fellow Briton, said. "I think three others can go over 18 metres this year."

The International Amateur Athletic Federation grand prix today is the first meeting in the Centennial Olympic Stadium. With temperatures forecast to rise to 95F, a crowd of some 50,000 likely and good opposition, Edwards will gain some feel of how the Olympics will be. He has been training in Florida for 11 weeks, sometimes in temperatures in the low 90s. "I know it is going to be hotter in Atlanta but I have been encouraged by how well I have responded to heat in the early stages," he said.

His first competition of 1996 is in marked contrast to his first of 1995 when, on a damp and chilly day at Loughborough, in a representative match with few spectators, he set a British record of 17.58 metres. "Something equivalent to that will be my first point of comparison," Edwards said in response to a question about what distance would constitute a satisfactory start.

Florida, where he was not recognised, has been a break from celebrity pressures. "Once when I was shopping at the Metro Centre [in Gateshead] I felt like I had two heads because everybody was looking at me," he said.

A devoutly religious man, he describes himself still as "a regular, ordinary guy, married, two kids". He has, he said, not indulged in any frivolous spending, despite signing a three-year contract with Puma that could, with bonuses, yield £500,000.

"I am the same person with the same values, the same motivation," he insisted. And the same sorcerer's skills? We should know today.



Barrichello acknowledges his supporters before starting a practice session for the Monaco Grand Prix, which takes place tomorrow

Barrichello puts the demons to flight

Oliver Holt meets a Formula One driver finally coming to terms with the loss of Ayrton Senna

TWO years ago, he was being touted in the tabloids as the "£10 million Rubens". Between then and now, though, the canvas has been scratched and scraped. Only this season has the true picture re-emerged. At last, Rubens Barrichello is himself again.

In only his third race after making his Formula One debut for Jordan in 1993, he ran second to his countryman and idol, Ayrton Senna, for long periods of the European Grand Prix at Donington Park and was immediately hailed as a future world champion. When Senna died at Imola in May 1994, Barrichello was tipped to become his replacement at Williams.

Then he descended into darkness. His rivals were all shaken by the death of the three-times world champion but gradually they banished it to the back of their minds. Barrichello tried, but failed. At Imola, he had nearly been killed two days before Senna in a crash that was a harbinger of the tragedy to come. When he regained consciousness in the track's medical centre, Senna was the first person he saw.

He watched Senna's own crash

from his home in Cambridge, bewildered at the seriousness of the accident gradually became apparent. Then, he became obsessed by the idea of taking up Senna's mantle, of becoming the instant hero Brazil demanded. The harder he tried, the worse it got.

He stayed at Jordan but when Eddie Irvine, his new team-mate, got into his stride, the Ulsterman's insouciance unsettled Barrichello even more. Irvine outqualified him regularly last year as the Brazilian, still the youngest driver in Formula One, struggled with an alien braking system and wrestled with the demons in his head.

The prophecies of greatness seemed an age away and some even doubted whether Barrichello would keep his seat at Jordan this season, let alone grab one of the top drives with Benetton, Ferrari or Williams that once seemed to be his for the asking. As his form faded, his humour suffered, too, and he began to gain a reputation for being temperamental.

qualifying sixteenth and that blew my mind away. For years in Brazil, when it was not Nelson Piquet winning races, then it was Senna and before them it was Emerson Fittipaldi. So it had to be someone new. We were too used to having someone all the time.

"The media wanted me to be Senna straight away but I could not cope. Today, though, I believe that it does not have to be anyone so it's OK again. That is the big difference. I am just me again."

Even in the dark days, Barrichello still brought Jordan their proudest achievements. He scored their first podium position when he finished third in the Pacific Grand Prix at Aida in April 1994. He claimed their first pole position before the Belgian Grand Prix at Spa four months later and secured their best result with a second place in Canada in June last year.

"We have grown together," Barrichello said, "and if we continue to progress as I hope, I will be happy to stay. Winning races this season is possible if we have a little luck but I do not set ambitions any more. I have learnt that things can change very quickly."

Seles makes plans for return to British competition

BY ALIX RAMSAY

MONICA SELES yesterday set the wheels in motion to bring her into competitive tennis action in Britain for the first time in four years.

The 22-year-old joint world No 1 asked George Hendon, the director of the Direct Line Insurance International championship, to reserve her a wild-card entry for the pre-Wimbledon tournament, which starts in Eastbourne on June 18.

Seles won the Australian Open on her return to the circuit this year after recovering from the physical — and psychological — wounds sustained when she was stabbed in the back by a spectator in Munich three years ago.

The entry list for Eastbourne now looks particularly enticing. Conchita Martínez, Chanda Rubin, Jana Novotná and Mary Pierce are all scheduled to play, along with Steffi Graf, Seles's great rival and co-holder of the world No 1 ranking.

Yesterday, at the German Open in Berlin, Graf recorded a predictable 6-1, 7-5 quarter-final win over Nathalie Tauziat, of France, but very little else that happened in the tournament could be classified as routine. Graf's semi-final opponent, Iva Majoli, the No 3 seed from Croatia, was the only other seed to escape elimination when she scrambled to a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 win against Barbara Paulus, of Austria.

The leading casualty was Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, the defending champion. She has been struggling all week but even she could not have been expected to be sent packing 6-3, 2-6, 6-0 by Elena Likhovtseva, an unseeded Russian.

Likhovtseva will meet Karina Habšudova, of Slovakia, another non-seed, who followed defeats of Martina Hingis and Pierce with success against Anke Huber.

The giant-killing theme was mirrored at the Rover International championship in Cardiff, Henrietta Nagyova, of Slovakia, securing a place in the semi-finals by beating the No 5 seed, Naoko Kijimuta, of Japan, 7-6, 7-5.

THE SUNDAY TIMES



EXCLUSIVE PLAYERS' POLL

In an exclusive poll of English First Division players, The Sunday Times reveals who is the rugby players' Player of the Year.

The poll also reveals their selections for the England team, which throws up plenty of surprises — not least for Jack Rowell (pictured)

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

New route to world title beckons for Bruno

FRANK BRUNO could emerge as a challenger for the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight championship if Mike Tyson does not defend against Lennox Lewis later this year and decides to give up the title (Srikumar Sen writes).

At present, Oliver McCall is the first choice of Don King, Tyson's promoter, to take on Lewis if the WBC title becomes vacant. But if Bruno wants to make another attempt at the title he could

demand to be nominated by the WBC before McCall. Bruno is third in the latest WBC rankings and McCall is No 4.

All Bruno needs to do to keep his ranking is to stay active until such time as Tyson vacates the title.

Bruno's promoter, Frank Warren, said yesterday: "If Tyson gives up the title it would be great for British heavyweights. Henry Akinwande is No 2 to Lewis and Frank Bruno is No 3. I don't know if

Bruno wants to keep on fighting, but if he does I would certainly push his case."

Akinwande is unlikely to feature for the WBC title as he is expected to challenge for the World Boxing Organisation version vacated by Riddick Bowe. Warren said that if Axel Schulz, of Germany, beats Michael Moorer for the International Boxing Federation title on June 22, he would put forward Scott Welch, of Brighton, as a challenger.

WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today	Tomorrow
FOOTBALL Kick-off 3.0 unless stated International match England v Hungary (at Wembley) Tottenham v Southampton Final Hearts v Rangers (at Hampden Park, Glasgow) COMBINED COUNTRIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Northern v Poyser; Reading v Carlisle ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division (2.30): Southern v West Midlands THE PARKS: Oxford University v Northamptonshire CRICKET Tatler's Challenge Series 11.0, final day of three Hove: Sussex v Indians Birmingham Assurance championship 11.0, third day of four, 104 overs maximum CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Yorkshire ILFORD: Essex v Kent CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Derbyshire Huddersfield v Wests LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Worcestershire TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Hampshire University matches 11.0, final day of three FENNERS: Cambridge University v Middlesex THE PARKS: Oxford University v Northamptonshire RUGBY UNION Peace International Ireland v Barbarians (at Lansdowne Road, 3.0) RUGBY LEAGUE Stones Super League Workington v Wigan (7.30) NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Haverhill v Epsom (2.30); Wotton v Wigan (2.30); West Hill v Wokingham (2.30) OTHER SPORT CYCLING: Borneo Telecom five-nations grand prix (Manchester Velodrome, 6.45); London Fire Brigade 10 (Holmesdale, 2.0) GOLF: Benson and Hedges International Open (Turner); Brabazon Trophy Royal St George's GYMNASTICS: Women's European championships (NEC, Birmingham) HOCKEY: England women's veterans championship (Leeds); Gilling v Ipswich (2.0); Sheffield Legends v Weymouth (Millon Keynes Stadium, 2.0) ROWING: Borden's Bedford sprint regatta (River Aire, Hirst Well, Shipley) SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Scottish Monarchs v Belle Vue (at Glasgow, 8.30); Conference League: Euston v Middlesbrough (3.0); Loughborough v Sheffield (2.30); Chesham v Arena Essex (2.0) TENNIS: Rover championships (Welsh National Tennis Centre, Cardiff)	CRICKET AXA Equity & Law League 2.0, 40 overs CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Yorkshire ILFORD: Essex v Kent BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Somerset LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Worcestershire TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Lancashire EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Hampshire 1.0 CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Derbyshire MCC TROPHY (one day): Preliminary round: Penryn v Cornwall; Broadchurch v Dorset; Sherborne v Dorset; Weymouth v Dorset; Weymouth v Dorset RUGBY LEAGUE Kick-off 3.0 unless stated Final Macclesfield v Northwich (at Wembley, 4.0) OTHER SPORT AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League (WAP): London Monarchs v Frankfurt (at White Hart Lane, 3.0); Scottish Claymores v Rhein Fire (at Murrayfield, 3.0) ATHLETICS: AAA v Great Britain Students (Loughborough) CYCLING: Lincoln Grand Prix (102 miles, 1.0); National championship (10 miles, 8.0) GOLF: Benson and Hedges International Open (Turner); Brabazon Trophy Royal St George's HOCKEY: HA Veterans Cup: Final: Macclesfield v Belper's Starford Archdeacon (8.30) SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Scottish Monarchs v Middlesbrough (at Glasgow, 8.30); Conference League: Euston v Middlesbrough (1.0); Middlesbrough v Belper's Starford Archdeacon (8.0); Sherborne v Arena Essex (8.0); Chesham v Weymouth (2.30) TENNIS: Rover championships (Welsh National Tennis Centre, Cardiff)

Win tickets for Euro 96

The Times has six pairs of tickets to give away for England's matches at Wembley against Switzerland, Scotland and Holland as well as a pair of tickets for the Wembley quarter-final, semi-final and final matches.

HOW TO ENTER
Collect 10 tokens from those printed in The Times until Saturday May 25. Token six appears below and a bonus token appears in the Euro 96 supplement inserted into today's paper. Attach them to the form below and send it with the answer to the question below to the given address. The closing date for receipt of entries is Wednesday May 29. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

Q. Which country won the 1992 European championship?
Up to four previously published tokens can be obtained by sending a SAE before May 22 to: The Times Token Request, PO Box 480, London E1 9DN.



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☐ 3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?
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Arthurson has conflicting messages for Wigan pair

**Old
fashioned
Ale**
EASY DRINKING
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WITH NEW BOTTLING

Saturday portrait: Alec Stewart, by Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

Deputy who betrayed signs of disaffection faces day of judgment

Alec Stewart is used to being discussed at England selection meetings, though not in the way he will be this evening. For some years now, selectors have regularly debated how many roles the willing Stewart should fill in the national side, tonight, when the new selection panel convenes in Nottingham, it may ask whether he still has a role to play at all.

There are various reasons for this erosion of faith in a man whose inclusion has been automatic for almost five years. One is form, for Stewart had a poor winter even by the forlorn standards of the England team. Another is the urge to move on, to dispense with many of those associated with past failure. A third factor is that Stewart has alienated Raymond Illingworth, and Illingworth is a bad man to cross.

The statesmanlike traditions of Illingworth's position as chairman of selectors have not greatly altered or inconvenienced him. He never was one for concealing his inner feelings and his transparent disaffection with Stewart was increasingly evident through the winter. Publicly, he questioned his batting; off camera, as it were, his frankness left no scope to doubt that the two were seeing very little through the same lens.

That the doubts were mutual could be gleaned from Stewart, whose frustrations over his limited brief in the World Cup, where he did not keep wicket, slipped down the batting order and, once, out of the side, were not difficult to detect. After the team had returned home and the saga of challenges to Illingworth unfolded, the chairman identified Stewart as one of several "insiders" who had militated against him.

The truth and extent of this perceived betrayal is a matter for the two men to resolve and, to some degree, they have done so. Encouraged by at least one other selector and aided by Illingworth's instinct to confront those with whom he has a grouse, the pair have met for what, in a football environment, would be labelled "clear the air talks".

This will probably facilitate the chairman's endorsement of Stewart's inclusion for the Texaco Trophy games against India next week, though largely as a wicket-keeper who will extend the batting. His Test place, which must be earned by batting alone, is a different matter. Illingworth may be ready for a conciliatory compromise but he is not one to change his views overnight and there are others who have a selectorial say with deep reservations over Stewart's continuing right to play.

His past 17 Test innings have yielded only 421 runs and one half-century. It is two years since he made a Test century. Too lean, for too long. Statistics aside, the evidence of the eyes discourages confidence, for, throughout the winter's cricket, Stewart's usually

'To speak to him now is to hear a man desperate to leave his mark before it is too late'

instinctive footwork was laboured, rendering his technique awkward and his trademark, back-foot strokes hazardous.

Between tours, he sought help from outside the England hierarchy, consulting Geoff Arnold, the former Surrey bowler who has been his trusted coach for 14 years. He may also have talked to Geoffrey Boycott, a regular confidant, but although Stewart claims his problem was minor, many have yet to be convinced he can regain the fluency of old.

He will think back wistfully to 1994. This was Stewart's year, the year when he convinced the doubters that he was a batsman of rare ability, the year when he might easily have ascended to the England captaincy if Michael Atherton had allowed himself to be hounded out of office by the spurious charges of ball-tampering and the self-inflicted loss of dignity.

Stewart was bestirring the cricket stage, the memory of his two centuries in the Test victory in Barbados fresh and beguiling. There is now a suspicion that, at 33, his time will not come again, that while Atherton has reposed himself, Stewart's stature has diminished. His epitaph is increasingly likely to be that of a man whose loftier ambitions were unfulfilled, a player who flattered but, by the harshest judgment, failed.

He feels it himself. To speak to Stewart now is to hear a man desperate to leave his mark before it is too late. "I have not won anything in cricket," he said. "It is time I did." His frustration relates not only to his England career, in which none of the important series have been won and the personal triumphs have merely brought consolation, but also to county cricket with Surrey, where he has nothing tangible to show for 12 years as a capped player and five as captain.

This latter omission troubles him, perhaps not least because he is constantly being reminded of Surrey's domination of the 1950s, when they won the county championship seven years in succession. At the heart of the monopoly was Alec's father, Micky, inevitably the shaper of his son's style and aspirations, a mentor with the best intentions but, unwittingly, casting a broad shadow.

Micky Stewart was probably not as good a batsman as Alec and won only eight England caps. Yet he went on to captain Surrey and managed the county as his son's career began. By the time Alec broke into the England side, Micky was already there, as team manager. Nepotism played no part — father and son did not even acknowledge their relationship when in a cricket environment — but it would be only natural if the achievements of the elder weighed heavily on the younger Stewart.

Alec's mother, Sheila, was also an accomplished games-player and he was raised to be intensely competitive, something that has never left him. He hates getting out, even in a benefit game, and



his education in Australian grade cricket contributes to a belief that what is said to the opposition on the field need not be cordial. In his early Test matches, he had too much to say and said it too aggressively for English tastes.

By contrast, he was also raised to be dapper and to be a diplomat. He is immaculately groomed, on and off the field, and unfailingly approachable in a way that endears him to public and media.

This is the stuff of a role model, the acceptable image of modern cricket. Stewart has a personality that is instantly attractive and yet, by his own self-deprecating admission, lacking depth.

His dress sense seems almost too perfect and his interview technique, though preferred by many to the moodiness that assails Atherton, is superficial. He has conquered the art of saying nothing with style. The squeaky-clean

image is not faked. Stewart hardly drinks and his touring behaviour is all that one would want of a vice-captain, tempering the excesses of others both by example and by the military bark of his sharp, south London tongue. He is not a man about whom there is ever likely to be a scandal.

Stewart gives little of himself away, even to others in his teams, but beneath the clean-cut and confident veneer there must now

lurk a turbulent self-doubt, an awareness that 1996 is some kind of personal watershed. At England level, he must either restore form and faith immediately or retire to the ranks, a former player of distinction, if not honours. With Surrey, there is a similar urgency. It is now or never for Stewart and the gathering in Nottingham this evening may not be the last this season that sits in judgment on his future.

Game's elite congregate in the name of peace

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF SPORT in general, and rugby union in particular, has ever enjoyed a capacity for unification, it is in Ireland. Historically governed by one body, in times of trouble rugby has served to draw together men from both sides of the border and has offered a unique welcome to visiting teams.

Today some of those visitors take the chance to repay the debt. Inspired by the concept of helping to restore the peace initiative in Ireland, leading players have congregated in Dublin for the match at Lansdowne Road between an Ireland XV and the Barbarians.

Even those who cannot play have come. Francois Pienaar, South Africa's World Cup-winning captain, was invited to captain the Barbarians but was injured playing for Transvaal last year.

Similarly, David Campese, the most popular of figures with successive Australian touring sides, has limped in injured.

Hugo MacNeill, the former Ireland full back, and Trevor Ringland — once his colleague on the wing — have spent the past four weeks beating the drum for the Peace International, which will raise funds for cross-border organisations.

The match will serve a purpose in purely sporting terms, since the Ireland selectors have an opportunity to see such newcomers as James Topping and Rob Henderson matching themselves against the game's great names.

IRELAND: S. Mason (Cork), R. Wallace (Gloucester), R. Henderson (London Irish), J. Ball (Northampton), J. Topping (Bath), D. Humphreys (London Irish), R. Hogg (Leicester), D. Gifford (Leicester), A. Clarke (Northampton), A. McKee (Lancaster), E. Harty (Leicester), G. Fothergill (London Irish), J. Davidson (Dumfries), D. McBride (Leicester), V. Connolly (St Mary's College). **BARBARIANS:** J. Collins (Bath and England), E. Rishi (New Zealand), P. Sella (Agen and France), P. de Oliveira (Bath and England, captain), R. Underwood (Leicester and England), S. Bishop (Otago and New Zealand), J. Rouse (Ireland and South Africa), G. Rowntree (Leicester and England), R. Cockerill (Leicester), D. Gifford (Leicester), S. O'Leary (Bath and England), N. Radwan (Bath and England), D. Brouzet (Grenoble and France), L. Caberanne (Racing and France), D. Richards (Leicester and England). **Referee:** D. Brown (Wales).

England seek specialist help to improve one-day fortunes

Alan Lee forecasts a cull of familiar names by the revamped selection panel when they announce their squad for the Texaco Trophy

Among the batsmen, there is likely to be no place for Robin Smith or Neil Fairbrother. Both have played wonderful, match-winning limited-overs innings but, at 32, they neither bat nor field as they once did. Youth will have



Maynard: in prime form

its fling in this first selection of summer and the names most likely to hold sway are those of Alistair Brown and Matthew Maynard.

Brown is an irresistible form for Surrey and his ability to hit over the mandatory infielders during the first 15 overs makes him an obvious candidate to open with Atherton. At least two of the surfaces, at the Oval and Old Trafford, should be quick and true enough to suit his style and if the first game, at his Surrey headquarters on Thursday, were not already sold out, his inclusion would guarantee it.

Maynard is not in the first flush of youth — indeed he is only two years younger than Smith and Fairbrother — but he is batting as well as at any time in a slightly unfilled career and, strictly as a limited-overs choice, he makes

Marsh appointed in place of Simpson

BOBBY SIMPSON, the background force behind Australia's cricket for the past ten years, has lost his job (Alan Lee writes). Simpson, 60, has been replaced as national coach by Geoff Marsh, the former Test opening batsman, after having his request for a new two-year contract rejected by the Australian Cricket Board (ACB).

Simpson was a highly influential figure while Australia, under the captaincy of Allan Border, basked years of decline and became a power once more. His input, however, had been waning since the captaincy passed to Mark Taylor and his dismissal is no surprise. With his abrasive manner, Simpson has always polarised opinion. He had many differences with Border and eventually, perhaps, was a victim of the generation gap and changed perceptions of the game.

Simpson is on holiday in Italy and he was told of his dismissal in a telephone call from Graham Halbish, the chief executive of the ACB. "I am very disappointed," he said. "I still believe I am the best man for the job." He has been offered another, as yet unspecified, job with the board, but will take the next month to consider his options. "My wish is to maintain a connection with the game," he added.

Marsh, 37, will stand down as a Test selector to work with Taylor, his close friend and former opening partner. "I think Bob did a fantastic job and I learnt a lot from him while I was playing," he said. "But I have my own ideas and I will take them to Mark."

Australia will not play their provisional arranged two Test matches in Sri Lanka in August, citing their busy schedule and "lingering security fears". Illogically, however, they are still considering visiting Sri Lanka for a one-day event in September.

Wicketkeeper catches up with unique double



SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

IT IS a tense battle for the award of hero of the week, but Wayne James manages to sneak it by virtue of this column's bias in favour of wicketkeepers. Was this the most extraordinary wicket-keeper's match ever played? That, at least, is the question posed in the June edition of *Wisden Cricket Monthly*.

Wayne James, wicketkeeper and captain of Matabeleland against Mashonaland Country Districts in the final of the Logan Cup in Zimbabwe, really did have a bit of a match.

James took nine catches in the first innings, equalling the record number of dismissals in an innings, set by Tahir Rashid in Pakistan four years ago. Then he scored 99 runs. He did not know that at the time; the scoreboard was not working. He took four more catches in the second innings to set a world record: 13 dismissals in a first-class match.

Mashonaland set out to bat for victory on the fourth day and James led the way. He finished with — yes, 99 not out. He was all set for glory when the bowler sent down four bays to settle the match. It is only the second time in first-class history that a player has made a pair of 99s. Still, "the main thing was we won the Logan Cup".

Points victory

Clevedon Promenade Bowls Club made a spring tour of Cornwall and played a match at the Lakeview Country Club, near Bodmin. The green was decorated by an important notice: "Caution: hedgehogs breeding". Players on the end rink were asked to refrain from firing — that is, sending the bowls and the jack in all directions with a high-speed chuck — so that the hedgehogs would not be disturbed. The green-keeper, contrary to the dictates of his trade, had allowed the grass to grow long at the hedgehog corner of the green and had made a little bridge, so that the hedgehogs could travel from the green to the bank without falling in the ditch. It was a very tough ploy to overcome.

but Clevedon Promenade carried the day. "Won on points," they boasted.

Running mad

Though touched off as hero of the week, I have a feeling that Islam Dzugum will stride on to claim the laurels as hero of the year. He is a marathon runner from Bosnia who has trained hard for the past four years in Sarajevo. "A lot of people thought I was mad, setting out into a war zone for a run," he said. "But running kept me sane." There were 10,000 people killed in a four-year siege of Sarajevo, but Dzugum ran on. Neither fighting, nor conscription, nor consequent duties on the front line stopped him. "I alternated

of the highest individual score in cricket, 628 not out, made in a house match between Clark's House and North Town at Clifton College in 1899. There will be an exhibition of cricket paintings by John Hawkins opening at the college tomorrow, including one of Collins. Collins's bat and the scorebook will be on show; there will be a Collins exhibition at the college on Founders' Day next weekend.

Court disorder

Mike Irvin, footballer with the Dallas Cowboys, a star of the Super Bowl, got himself into trouble over the usual things, cocaine and marijuana. The idea was that the police would be gentle with him, in exchange for information that would help them. However, Irvin did his cause no good by turning up at court in a very grand and late fashion: one that did not impress the grand jury at all. Once he arrived, he started signing autographs for court employees. Irvin then stuck his head outside the courtroom to offer doughnuts to the waiting photographers. A little later he managed to sneak out of the courtroom. He was found telephoning for a pizza.

Great Scot

I think Glasgow Rangers are going to get him myself, because they are, after all, offering him an annual salary of 5,000 million lire (about £2.1 million). Besides, Gianluca Vialli is a fan of Scotland, believe it or not. Chelsea, reports say, have offered the Juventus footballer 3,500 million lire a year, but Vialli has said he will be cheering for Scotland during the European championship, since he refuses to play for Italy — well, it's all over bar the signing.



the times of runs to avoid the attention of snipers," he said. "I never used the same route, but often you couldn't avoid running into trouble." He will be running for Bosnia at the Olympic Games this summer. The man is either completely mad, or else the world is.

Old master

I am delighted to point out that another hero of mine is to be honoured this week. This is A. E. J. Collins, scorer

Uphill task in prospect for Durham batsmen

Benjamin's antic sour team effort

Leicestershire m

SATURDAY MAY 18 1996

Venables puts faith in Wilcox

Wingers given the chance to raise England

By Rob Hughes, Football Correspondent

PERHAPS with a historian's keen eye, Terry Venables meets the Hungarians at Wembley this afternoon with one winger restored and another, Jason Wilcox, brought in for his international debut just three weeks before the kick-off to England's most important tournament since the 1966 World Cup.

Indeed, the coach makes four changes. He leaves the defence, the new three-man formation, untouched, but as well as swapping Darren Anderton for Steve Stone, and Wilcox for Steve McNamara on the left, he brings back Robert Lee in place of Paul Gascoigne and Les Ferdinand for Robbie Fowler.

There is one over-riding reason for the late inclusion of Wilcox: he is the only attack-minded left-footed player in the squad, the only man to offer penetration on that flank since his Blackburn Rovers team-mate, Graeme Le Saux, broke his leg. Could Venables be anticipating that Wilcox, born in Farnworth, close to Bolton, might have a similar impact on this tournament as Alan Ball, born in the same neck of the woods, had in 1966.

Wilcox, slender, sinewy, industrious and pacy, came back on March 13 after a year lost to a cruciate ligament injury. "He's exploded into form," Venables said. "He's come back a little sharper than before, he's going past defenders." With Anderton returning in similar fashion from long-term injury, suddenly Eng-

land possesses two wingers who can hit the ball in full stride for the head or foot of a centre forward as powerful and as swift as Ferdinand.

Long before Wilcox was born, Hungary came to this same stadium, in 1953, and gave English football the lesson of a lifetime. We never learnt it, and so both countries are grasping for former, sepia-toned glories. For the record, England had been unbeaten on home soil for 90 years before Hidegkuti, Puskas and Kocsis set about them. Hungary destroyed England's pretensions with a 6-3 win at Wembley, which they followed, six months later, with a 7-1 win in Budapest.

Just as Venables called leading club managers together after their poor performances in Europe last winter, so, in 1954, did Walter Winterbottom, then the director of coaching of England, call a meeting at the Café Royal.

TEAMS

ENGLAND (3-5-1-1) D. Seaman (Arsenal) — G. Neville (Manchester United), M. Wright (Liverpool), S. Pearce (Nottingham Forest) — D. Anderton (Tottenham Hotspur), D. Platt (Arsenal), P. Ince (Aston Villa), R. Lee (Newcastle United), J. Wilcox (Blackburn Rovers) — E. Sheeran (Tottenham Hotspur) — L. Ferdinand (Newcastle United).

HUNGARY (3-5-2) P. Gyöngyösi (Ferencváros), P. Horváth (Ferencváros), V. Vincze (Ferencváros) — J. Szűcs (Ferencváros), U. Urban (Győr), M. Németh (MTK) or S. Sebok (Újpest), N. Nagy (Ferencváros), B. Szabó (Ferencváros), B. Szűcs (Ferencváros) — E. Horváth (Ferencváros), V. Vincze (Ferencváros).

Referee: M. Mark (Germany).

Robson poised for Barcelona role

By Russell Kempson

BOBBY ROBSON, the former England manager, is expected to take over as coach of Barcelona next week. Though the Spanish club refused to confirm the move yesterday, it is believed that Robson will leave FC Porto, of Portugal, to conclude his managerial career at the Nou Camp stadium.

Robson, 63, will sign a two-year contract, worth £2 million, after finalising negotiations with José Luis Núñez, the Barcelona president, over the weekend. He will replace Johan Cruyff, the Dutchman, who has been in charge for eight years.

"I expect it to be made official in the next 48 hours," Robson said. "It is all I want, then I will bow out of football, but what a way to go as manager of one of the great clubs." "There are only a handful of really top jobs in world football — Manchester United, Inter Milan, Real Madrid, Juventus and Barcelona. They are big, big clubs and I am so excited by this, even at my age."

Robson retired as manager of England after guiding them to the World Cup semi-finals in Italy in 1990, when they were beaten by Germany in a penalty shoot-out. He led PSV Eindhoven to consecutive Dutch league championships and spent a brief spell at Sporting Lisbon before joining Porto, who recently se-

cured their second successive Portuguese league title.

"I have come abroad and worked hard. My record is good," Robson said. "Having just won the league again, I expected to stay here, but what an opportunity this is. I will say my farewells to the club on Sunday and expect to be at Barcelona next week."

Cruyff's reign at the Nou Camp has been one of the most successful periods in the Catalan club's history. They won the European Cup for the first time in 1992 and were Spanish league champions four times in a row from 1991 to 1994.

However, they have since fallen from grace, with Cruyff's relationship with Núñez swiftly deteriorating. Barcelona lost to Atlético Madrid in the Spanish Cup final this season and were knocked out of the UEFA Cup in the semi-finals, by Bayern Munich, the eventual champions. A 1-1 draw against Espanol this week ended their lingering hopes of overhauling Atlético at the top of the league and made Cruyff's position untenable.

Robson underwent surgery for cancer last year but has made a good recovery. A Porto source said yesterday: "The club has agreed to release Bobby and, in all probability, the move to Barcelona will be completed this weekend."

Stan Cullis had blamed Derek Ufton for allowing Hidegkuti the space to score a hat-trick. Winterbottom then inquired: "Who does the centre half mark?" The centre forward, of course. But in this case, new to international football, the man with No 9 on his back, Hidegkuti, was a centre forward with a difference: he withdrew to leave space for Puskas and Kocsis, two rapacious forwards who were to score at least a goal in every game while Hungary won 43 of 51 matches.

The key to their game, to the tactics that introduced 4-2-4 to the world, was polished technique, incredible sprint speed in all departments, but, above all, an open mind to improvisation. Sometimes you wonder whether the British have ever acquired those qualities.

That history is long gone, however. Unless we are about to be deceived anew, the Magyars who come to our capital today have lost the magic. After a 4-1 defeat in Croatia, and then a 2-0 loss to Austria at home last month, both the president of the Hungary football association and the coach have been replaced, and, frankly, the inevitable changes in selection mean that the new Hungarians are, to our eyes, an anonymous bunch.

Their forefathers dug deep into their social roots to try to fathom their decline. Sándor Barcs, the former head of their football association, once took me into the streets of Budapest.

"Listen," he said. "Do you hear anything?" Nothing, and that was his point. He had conducted a survey of 93 players from 1910 to the 1980s. He found that the earlier players had played in the streets for three hours every day, rain, hail or shine. "The ball knocking against doors and walls was our heartbeat," he said. "Today, I conclude, that a boy would play only eight minutes per day unstructured football. That is where we have lost it."

And today? Still searching, the Hungarians have launched a new scheme. They are coaching as many of the 600,000 Romany population that they can attract, hoping that their feel for music and dance might replace the lost art of improvisation in their national game.

It will not, of course, happen overnight. Janos Csank, the former goalkeeper newly installed as team coach, admits that he is building on youthful legs for the future. As he does so, it is interesting to see that English tutors are still coveted abroad: Bobby Robson, sacked because guiding England to the 1990 World Cup semi-finals did not convince the Football Association of his worth, is about to succeed Johan Cruyff as the coach at Barcelona and Brian Kidd, the assistant to Alex Ferguson at Manchester United, is taking a summer job — preparing Ghana for the World Cup qualifiers. He will guide Tony Yeboah, Abedi Pele et al, all gifted under-achievers. If only England had those gifts to go with the knowledge.

Photograph, page 45
McCoist doubt, page 45
Saunders bid, page 45



Jimenez, who retained the lead at The Oxfordshire, seeks relief from the wind and rain as he lines up a testing putt in his round of 70

Calm Montgomerie weathers the storm

By John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent

THERE are not many occasions when the remarkable score by a professional of 13 at one hole is eclipsed by the quality of golf played elsewhere. But on another windy and intermittently rainy day at the Benson and Hedges International Open yesterday when, for some players a golf course was the last place they wanted to be, Padraig Harrington's eight-over-par total on the 17th was put into the shade by the relentlessly authoritative play of Colin Montgomerie.

The Scot went round in 68 and set a small record by becoming the first competitor to complete a round at The Oxfordshire without a bogey.

This was no mean achievement. This course has brutish qualities that pose considerable problems in a dead calm.

It becomes almost impossible to master in a wind and when it is as cold as it has been this week. "It's a slog," Nick Faldo, who had a 73 and is one under par, said. "It was a hard, hard day. I can't remember the last time I had to hit so many long-irons."

Miguel Angel Jimenez, whose 70 took him to six under par and a two-stroke lead, said, with his teeth almost audibly chattering: "It's freezing, very cold. When it's as cold as this, you don't feel your fingers, you're stiff and you can't move your body."

What happens when the professionals compete at a course as difficult as this one, and in conditions as inclement as these, is that the best complain the least and find themselves near the top of the leaderboard. "I play in events to get into contention, and I'm there again," Montgomerie, who is two strokes behind

Jimenez, said. "With this course you tend not to get a fluky winner because it is so demanding. On such courses you generally find that the Ryder Cup players come to the top."

Ian Woosnam improved his opening day's 72 by two strokes as if to bear out what Montgomerie was saying, and then Bernhard Langer joined Montgomerie and Jon Robson

for your life. Langer's your man. Others may complain. For Langer, vicissitudes are meat and drink.

"The most consistent players will come out on top this week — the guys who hit the ball lower and keep it under control," Woosnam said. "The wind makes you play all sorts of shots. It's good for the lads to play a lot in the wind to learn control. I might hit a seven-iron 110 yards and they go in with a nine-iron and wonder why it spins off the green."

It is to be hoped that Gordon Sherry was not disheartened by dropping seven strokes in as many holes to miss the cut. An 80 is most un-Sherry-like but he should have learnt a lot from playing alongside Frank Nobilo and Sandy Lyle. Perhaps the visible signs of temper that he was demonstrating, and which displeased Nobilo, will soon be curbed.

Harrington, Sherry's team-mate in the Walker Cup last year, is unlikely to take 13 again. After hitting three balls into the water on the 17th, he finally admitted that the carry was too much for him. "I had 250 yards downwind but unfortunately I forgot that 240 of them were over water," Harrington said, with engaging Irishness.

He also said that he did not know how many balls he had hit into the water until he asked his caddy to count how many he had left in his bag. Then he took that total from the number he had started with and realised the awful truth. Faldo, who was playing with Harrington, did his best not to criticise the young Irishman, pointing out that he was young and in his first season.

"It was a case of if at first you don't succeed, then play sideways," Faldo said.

Leading scores 45

on four under par as well. Langer is one hard man. Only last month at the Masters he appeared to have been afflicted by the yips yet again.

Yet he came in with a 71, notable for his recovery from dropping three strokes in two holes by then covering his last 13 holes in three under par. If you wanted someone to fight

HARRINGTON'S WATER TORTURE

The Oxfordshire — 17th Hole 585 yds

SHOT	STROKE	CLUB	DISTANCE
1	1st	Driver	250 yds
2	2nd	3-wood	250 yds
3	3rd	3-iron	220 yds
4	4th	3-iron	220 yds
5	5th	6-iron	180 yds
6	6th	6-iron	180 yds
7	7th	6-iron	180 yds
8	8th	6-iron	180 yds
9	9th	6-iron	180 yds
10	10th	6-iron	180 yds
11	11th	PW	80 yds
12	12th	Putter	—
13	13th	Putter	—

Padraig Harrington

MANY THINGS HAVE GONE FOR A BURTON THESE DAYS — BUT, THANKFULLY NOT IN BURTON. MARSTON'S PENCORE REMAINS THE GOLDEN PINT IT ALWAYS WAS, BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY BEER TRADITIONALLY BREWED IN WOODEN CASKS.

THANKS HEAD

Driver reborn, page 44

Schumacher outlines winning formula

FROM OLIVER HOULT
IN MONTE CARLO

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER last night abandoned the protestations of inferiority in which he has cloaked himself this season and admitted that, for the first time since he joined Ferrari, he was contemplating victory. The world champion has won the Monaco Grand Prix for the past two years and intends to claim his hat-trick here tomorrow.

Schumacher has edged closer to the Williams-Renault of Damon Hill as the season has progressed. He ran Hill's team-mate, Jacques Vill-

eneuve, a close second at the European Grand Prix at the Nürburgring last month and then chased Hill all the way to the chequered flag at Imola a fortnight ago. His acknowledged mastery of this tight, twisting circuit could give him the edge he needs to take the final step towards victory.

Schumacher knows that a victory here would turn Hill's quest to win the race his late father, Graham, dominated in the 1960s into something akin to Ivan Lendl's forlorn pursuit of a Wimbledon title and could transform the season. Hill leads the drivers' championship by 22 points from Vill-

eneuve and is 27 points ahead of Schumacher. But the German, who has just moved from the Principality to Switzerland, has inherited the title of King of Monaco that was bestowed on Hill's father, who won five times, and Ayrton Senna, who won one better.

"I have tasted success in Monaco in the last two years," Schumacher said yesterday. "My hunger is as great as ever. I want to do it again and again because this is the one race any driver is proud to have on his record."

"I have special motivation on this occasion. It is not so much for myself as for the

whole Ferrari team. If we win, it will be a tremendous boost after so much hard work has been done since the start of the season to catch up Williams. We have improved step by step and I was surprised by the form we showed at San Marino in the last grand prix. "I know I have said it would be halfway through the season before Ferrari are competitive enough to win a race but, by that, I meant on a consistent basis. I think it is possible to get a one-off victory before then and why not here? I will be going for it."

Driver reborn, page 44

EURO ITF

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Today in The Times:
a 12-page guide to the
Euro 96 ITF game

Italy's new government raises hopes of stability

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY took a historic shift yesterday towards what it hopes will be a more stable democracy as Professor Romano Prodi, leader of the Centre Left, formed the first Government since 1948 to put key portfolios in left-wing hands. The lira rose, as did stocks in Milan.

The formation of the Prodi Government only a month after the election — remarkable speed by Italian standards — is symptomatic of the sea-change in Italian politics. There was, nonetheless, the traditional horse-trading before Signor Prodi met President Scalfaro at the Quirinale Palace to announce a judicious mix of experienced centrists and former Communists to run Italy's 55th postwar Government.

The young new Deputy Prime Minister, Walter Veltroni, is a senior member of the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS), the former Communist Party, as is the veteran former Communist and former Speaker, Giorgio Napolitano, who becomes Interior

Minister. Other former Communists to get key posts are Vincenzo Visco, who becomes Finance Minister, and Luigi Berlinguer — cousin of the late Communist leader, Enrico Berlinguer — who takes over Education and Technology.

The Left is balanced by senior centrist politicians such as Lamberto Dini, the interim "technocrat" Prime Minister for the past 18 months, who becomes Foreign Minister, re-

placing Susanna Agnelli. The markets were also reassured by the appointment as Treasury and Budget Minister of Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, a former central banker who was Prime Minister from 1992-93, and of Antonio Maccanico, who served as chief aide to successive postwar leaders, as Minister of Posts and Telecommunications.

The hard-left Rifondazione Comunista, on whose votes

Signor Prodi will rely for a clear majority in parliament, had opposed Signor Ciampi. Signor Prodi appeased them by giving Signor Visco the Finance Ministry.

La Repubblica noted that Signor Prodi, who taught economics at Bologna University, was fast learning the "subtle alchemy which blends power with idealism".

The PDS had lobbied hard for the defence portfolio, a move which would have highlighted the dramatic shift to the Left in Italian politics. In the Cold War years the mere thought of a Communist Defence Minister would have caused a crisis in Nato. In the event, Signor Prodi played safe by appointing Beniamino Andreatta, Signor Ciampi's Foreign Minister in 1993.

The Prodi Government is further boosted by the inclusion of Antonio Di Pietro, the hugely popular magistrate who led the "Clean Hands" anti-corruption drive in 1992, as Minister of Public Works. He is expected to tackle endemic corruption.

THE PRODI CABINET

Prime Minister	Romano Prodi (Italian Popular Party)
Deputy PM, Culture	Walter Veltroni (Democratic Party of the Left)
Foreign	Lamberto Dini (Italian Renewal)
Defence	Beniamino Andreatta (Italian Popular Party)
Interior	Giorgio Napolitano (Democratic Party of the Left)
Justice	Giovanni Maria Flick (Independent)
Finance	Vincenzo Visco (Democratic Party of the Left)
Treasury, Budget	Carlo Azeglio Ciampi (Independent)
Public Works	Antonio Di Pietro (Independent)
Labour	Tiziano Treu (Italian Renewal)
Regional Affairs	Franco Bassanini (Democratic Party of the Left)
Industry	Pierluigi Bersani (Democratic Party of the Left)
Transportation	Claudio Burlando (Democratic Party of the Left)
Education	Luigi Berlinguer (Democratic Party of the Left)
Post & Telecommunications	Antonio Maccanico (Italian Popular Party)
Foreign Trade	Edo Ronchi (Greens)
Environment	Edo Ronchi (Greens)
Family and Social Affairs	Livia Turco (Democratic Party of the Left)
Health	Rosario Sindri (Italian Popular Party)
Equal Opportunity	Anna Finocchiaro (Democratic Party of the Left)
Agriculture	Michele Pinto (Italian Popular Party)



Romano Prodi: blending power with idealism

Mad puma scare grips France's forbidden forest

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE Beast of Bodmin may have moved to western France, where a mysterious wild "puma" has struck fear into local inhabitants, savaged a cow and forced the closure of one of France's favourite tourist spots.

Like the mythical feline periodically said to be seen on Bodmin Moor, the puma supposedly stalking the Forêt de Chizé is an elusive beast, but the evidence of a sharp-toothed, long-clawed predator has been sufficient to persuade local authorities to close the 13,000-acre forest to walkers.

Tales of a large and dangerous animal, described variously as a puma, outsize wildcat, mountain lion or feral dog, began circulating last summer and alleged sightings have multiplied in recent months. The animal first attacked and seriously clawed a heifer, then a dog, according to the Préfecture des Deux-Sèvres.

"We have tried everything to catch it," Alain Gérard, a spokesman for the préfecture, said. "Beaters, live and dead bait, tempting it with a female puma specially brought in from Brittany, but nothing has worked."

"We are going to appeal for help from specialists at the Environment Ministry, but in the meantime the closure of the forest remains in force," he said. Large signs have been erected declaring the forest off-limits to walkers, hunters, ramblers and mushroom collectors.

The Forêt de Chizé, an area of great scenic beauty south of Niort, attracts thousands of visitors every year and businesses which largely rely on tourism insist that banning pedestrian access is ridiculous and stifling the local economy. "This beast could stay there for ten years. We do not want to remain sealed off for ten years," complained Daniel Guérineau, the Mayor of nearby Villiers-en-Bois, who also runs a zoo of 600 wild and domestic animals that brings 60,000 visitors in a normal year.

The préfecture, however, points out that mountain lion attacks in America in recent years have killed ten people, mostly children under nine years of age. "This animal

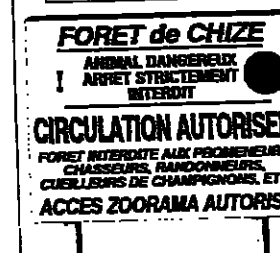
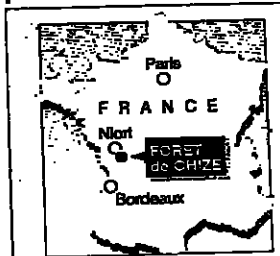
could be dangerous, above all if it is young, as seems to be the case," M Gérard said.

France is no stranger to puma scares, most of which have turned out to be shaggy dog stories. Three years ago the so-called Puma de l'Oise briefly caused turmoil in the region north of Paris until the savage beastie was identified as an ill-trained pedigree dog.

Earlier this month, residents on the outskirts of Nice on the Riviera were gripped by another puma panic after witnesses claimed to have spotted a large animal weighing at least 70 kilos (155lb), with a long tail. The Nice fire department said that an influx of over-enthusiastic hunters could pose a far greater threat to the population than any itinerant feline.

The inhabitants of the French Pyrenees, it appears, are made of sterner stuff. In the next few days zoologists will release three bears captured in Slovenia into mountains of the Haute-Garonne in a bid to regenerate the wild bear population, which has dropped to about seven from 200 in 1937.

M Guérineau said this week that tourists and groups of schoolchildren on nature-study trips should be allowed back into the forest. On Thursday he held a picnic on the edge of the forest near one of the most recent sightings, to which he invited mayors from neighbouring towns. All the picnickers survived.



The sign barring entry to the tourist venue

Cezanne sold for £16.5m

Los Angeles: Cezanne's *Still Life With Apples*, a painting considered to be his finest still life in private hands, has been bought by the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles for an estimated £16.5 million (Giles Whittell writes).

The surprise purchase from a private collection in Switzer-

land may signal the start of a new buying spree by the small but lavishly endowed Getty Museum, which moves next year to huge new premises.

The Cezanne, painted in 1893-94, is well known in Europe having been on long-term loan to the Kunsthhaus in Zurich.



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Gibraltar winner brings hope to Britain and Spain

BY DOMINIQUE SEARLE IN GIBRALTAR, TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AFTER eight years under the leadership of the self-proclaimed *Street Fighter*-style politician Joseph Bossano, Gibraltar opted for a dramatic change yesterday by voting in Peter Caruana and his Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party as the Rock's new Government.

An unprecedented 88 per cent of the electorate voted to give the Social Democrats 52 per cent and Mr Bossano's Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party 43 per cent, which shows a significant fall from grace for a party which topped the polls with a record 73 per cent of the votes in 1992.

The highest personal vote went to the charismatic Peter Montegriffo, 36, who was just four votes ahead of Mr Caruana, a fellow lawyer. But they have declared that they plan to work as a joint team, handling the key issues of relations with Britain and Spain, and breaking away

from the personal antagonism which they accuse Mr Bossano of creating with both countries because of his autocratic style.

Britain made no official comment last night on the Gibraltar election, but the Government is hoping for better relations with Mr Caruana. Whitehall officials suggested that Mr Caruana would probably have an early meeting in London with Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. The Government is still unclear what Mr Caruana's priorities are, or how he proposes to balance his election calls for greater dialogue with Spain and Britain with his insistence that sovereignty is not negotiable.

The Spanish Government did little more than reiterate its well-worn position, despite the election of a less hostile Chief Minister in Gibraltar. José María Aznar, Spain's

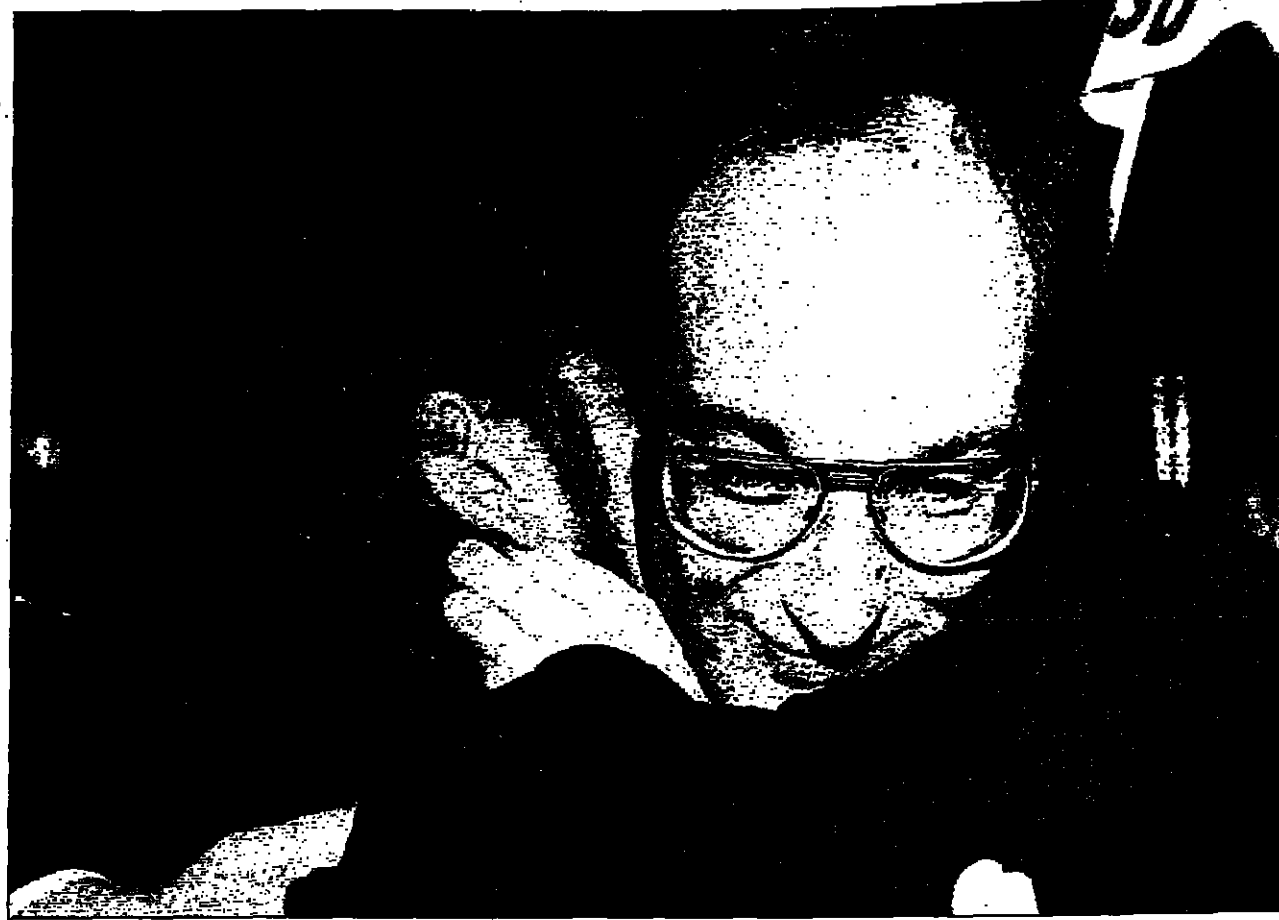
new conservative Prime Minister, revealed no change in his country's policy. "The future of Gibraltar," he said, "remains a matter to be resolved only between the Governments of Spain and the United Kingdom".

But Ramón de Miguel Egea, the Secretary of State for Foreign Policy and EU Affairs, was guardedly optimistic about a better political climate. "We hope that Mr Caruana's election will assist the British Government in its negotiations with Spain. If the new leader of Gibraltar will help to improve relations between his community and Spain, then we welcome the change."

Mr Caruana's credentials to be a Gibraltar Chief Minister could not be more unlikely. His public school background and education at Radcliffe College, Oxford, and his marriage to Christina, the daughter of J. E. Triay, QC, the man who led a bid for autonomy with Franco's Spain in the 1960s, has not made political life easy for him. Nor has the fact that he is a former Commodore of the Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club and a keen, if infrequent, golfer. But he comes from a modest family of three generations of originally Maltese outfitters who still keep a shop in the Main Street, where they used to

supply the Royal Navy. Mr Caruana, 39, with five children, is deeply religious — Masses were said at Roman Catholic churches for an election win — and has survived politics against the odds. Four

years ago he lost his eldest son, Michael, in a riding accident. He has a wry sense of humour, and is a passionate supporter of Manchester United.



A supporter embraces Mr Caruana early yesterday after his party's triumph in the Gibraltar general elections

WORLD SUMMARY

French hunt 'dead' gangster

Paris: A suspected French gangster linked to Islamic terrorists was being hunted yesterday after forensic scientists proved he had not, after all, died in a police shootout (Ben Macintyre writes).

Police had been sure one of four charred bodies found in March in a burnt-out house in the northern city of Roubaix was that of Lionel Dumont, 25. He was suspected of taking part in armed hold-ups on security vans and at shops.

Genetic testing proved M Dumont was not among the dead, leaving the identity of the fourth corpse unknown.

Ivory Coast tells of army split

Abidjan: Ivory Coast has admitted the army was split and there was a possible coup attempt in the run-up to last October's presidential election. Bandama N'Gatta, Defence Minister, said armed forces' chiefs told President Bedie the officers involved must face court-martial. Trouble arose after a general was removed for refusing to quell poll violence. (Reuters)

Restoration plea for Acropolis

Athens: An appeal for more money to help to strengthen the monuments of the Acropolis and make them safer for visitors has been made by the Greek Ministry of Culture (John Carr writes). Parts of the Parthenon are in constant danger of falling. Since 1983 it has been roped off as its 12,575 marble blocks are dismantled and reinforced.

Anti-Kaunda Bill stirs violence

Harare: An explosion near President Chiluba's official residence and warnings by an underground movement of attacks on the Zambian Government have marked increasingly violent opposition to a parliamentary Bill apparently intended to keep former President Kaunda out of elections this year.

Boy charged over baby's death

Englewood, Colorado: A boy aged ten has been charged in connection with the death of Jazmine Haen, 18 months, who was beaten with a dog chain and left to die beside a cat carcass at her home in this Denver suburb. The boy was taken to court in leg-irons and handcuffs. (AP)

North Koreans forced back

Seoul: South Korean troops fired warning shots to force five North Korean soldiers back to their own side of the demilitarised zone, a military official said. The North Koreans had fired shots before they were seen. There were no casualties. (AFP)

Australia hails first Aboriginal judge

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

IT HAS taken two centuries of bloody confrontation, racial discrimination and political struggle, but finally Australia has its first Aboriginal judge.

Bob Bellar yesterday swore the judicial oath in a historic ceremony before a packed public gallery in the New South Wales District Court. Aboriginal and white Australians, many representing the legal profession, watched the ceremony.

The Sydney lawyer, 51, who began studying law in the early 1970s after training as a fitter in the Navy, was motivated by the routine harassment of Aborigines in the predominantly Aboriginal Sydney suburb of Redfern. Jeff Shaw, New South Wales Attorney-General, said his appointment was part of the reconciliation process between the indigenous people of Australia and society generally.

Turning to the man he had appointed, Mr Shaw added: "Every week you would watch Aboriginal people being arrested and dragged off to the police station, to the cells. Sometimes there was a reason for it, but often there was not. Seeing this injustice repeated week after week hit hard and there was no way that Bob Bellar was going to sit back and watch it keep happening." The new judge spent three years on Australia's official inquiry into Aboriginal deaths in custody. He was later employed by the Government to represent people who could not afford a lawyer.

Leading article, page 21

Plan to end call-up wins Yeltsin voters

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN'S sweeping proposal to phase out Russia's conscript army by 2000 seemed to be winning him important votes yesterday from parents and Russian youth, despite fears that the plan is not enforceable.

Three second-year students having a smoke in the sunshine outside Moscow University's journalism faculty welcomed the President's decree, but said they would try to "split out" a year after graduating in 1999 so that they would not have to answer a call-up. They said Mr Yeltsin's announcement on Thursday strengthened their resolve to vote for him in the presidential election, to be held on June 16.

Lev Nikolayev, 18, said: "A lot more young people will go and vote as a result. It inspires hope. I don't really believe it will work myself, but there is always hope."

Mothers from the human rights organisation called Sons, whose children are at the front line in Chechnia, said as they picketed yesterday outside the Duma that they were more interested in Mr Yeltsin's second decree — abolishing conscripts from going to fight in Chechnia against their will. "We don't believe it," said

Tatyana Maksimova, whose son Sergei, 20, serves in an Interior Ministry battalion in Grozny, the Chechen capital. He was to have been demobilised in April, but instead had to serve a second tour of duty. She added: "If they release our boys, I would vote for Yeltsin. Otherwise, I won't."

The Communist opposition to President Yeltsin has been wrongfooted by the decrees. General Albert Makashov, a prominent Russian nationalist and Communist MP, said his party would stand by a commitment to a conscript army. "We have very rich experience in military action and mercenaries never fought better than patriots," he said.

The general and other experts said setting up a professional army would be very costly. Contract soldiers are presently paid about seven times more than conscripts.

But Vladimir Lopatin, a leading Duma proponent of military reform, said the main drain on army resources was the bloated officer corps and its General Staff. About 90,000 new officers join the army every year and the Russian military boasts more than 2,000 generals, many of them so-called "parquet generals", who draw big salaries and never leave their offices.

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WANTS TO
WRIGHT

2

Apology to US sailors in admiral's suicide note

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN A suicide note written the day before he died, the US Navy's top admiral apologised to every American sailor for wearing Vietnam combat insignia to which he had not been entitled.

Admiral Jeremy "Mike" Boorda, the Chief of Naval Operations, shot himself in the chest outside his Washington residence on Thursday afternoon as reporters were due to question him about valour pins he had worn on two of his 16 decorations. He died shortly afterwards.

The death sent shockwaves through the military and political establishment in Washington and, months before the presidential election, raised once more the spectre of President Clinton's own Vietnam record, in which he had dodged the national draft.

The bronze pins, which are sold for about 50p at most American army surplus shops, should be worn only when accompanied by a citation saying that an individual has been at personal risk in hostile action.

The admiral received two decorations, the Navy achievement and Navy commendation medals, for his outstanding service in the Vietnam War. The first, awarded in 1965, gave no authorisation for a valour pin, which he had worn until two years ago when the issue was raised in a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Pentagon officials said he had left two suicide notes, the first to his wife Bettie and their family, and the second addressed to two close friends. In this message to all sailors, he recognised his error in wearing the "V" pins and feared that colleagues would never see his action as an honest mistake. A television broad-

cast said that one note had referred to media criticism of the Navy. "I have given you more to write about," CNN reported he had written.

Admiral Boorda, 57, was due to be questioned by Evan Thomas, the Washington bureau chief of *Newsweek*, about a report the magazine was preparing by Colonel David Hackworth, its contributing editor on military affairs.

Colonel Hackworth, a colourful figure known by war reporters and soldiers as "the Hack", has been an outspoken critic of the military since he left the US Army after Vietnam. In an article in 1990, he lambasted the debasing of combat decorations, citing the case of a soldier awarded the Purple Heart for suffering a heart attack in Panama. Recognised as the most decorated living soldier in America, Colonel Hackworth is credited with 110 decorations earned in Korea and Vietnam, 78 combat-related.

The prospect of the disclosure by the highly decorated journalist was seen yesterday as the final ignominy for Admiral Boorda, whom Mr Clinton had appointed as the US Navy's top military officer two years ago.

He had drawn criticism in recent weeks, including an attack by anonymous letter in the *Navy Times* which said he had lost the respect of other senior officers and should resign. "Little Mickey Boorda," the letter said, "you are not their leader. Go home immediately for the sake of the Navy you love."

James Webb, the former Navy Secretary, delivered a scathing address at the Naval Academy last month in which he accused unnamed leaders of currying political favour at the expense of naval personnel. The speech, implicitly directed at Admiral Boorda, denounced senior ranks for "killing morale down the chain of command" and "embracing political correctness". However, he was a folk hero to enlisted sailors: he started his career swabbing decks as a teenager and ended it as the US Navy's top officer.

Senator John McCain, a former navy pilot and prisoner of war in Vietnam, said yesterday that the medal discrepancy could have been an honest mistake. The Gulf of Tonkin, where Admiral Boorda had served, was a designated combat zone.



Boorda: folk hero to enlisted sailors

Obituary, page 23

THE MAN WHO WROTE 'YESTERDAY' TALKS TO STEVE WRIGHT TODAY.

Paul McCartney talks about his life-long admiration for Buddy Holly, the Beatles' recent get-together in the recording studio, and lots more. Plus amazing but true facts, all wrapped up in three hours of classic pop music. Steve Wright's **RADIO 2** Saturday Show, **10-11pm**. And on Sunday morning, lie back and enjoy Steve Wright's Sunday Love Songs, **9-11am**.

Steve Wright. New at the weekend on Radio 2. As you'd expect, unexpected.



Bob Dole with his wife Elizabeth in Chicago for his first campaign appearance since leaving the Senate

Citizen Bob begins his new-look bid for White House

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

FAREWELL, Senator Dole: welcome, Citizen Bob. A day after resigning his Senate seat of 27 years the Republican presidential nominee unveiled a new Bob Dole to relaunch his campaign in the heartlands capital of Chicago.

For the first time in memory, Mr Dole appeared in a jacket and open shirt instead of a dark suit and tie. He visited a restaurant-bar and cheekily took a chip off a woman's plate. He gave a speech mercifully short of legislative jargon in which he cast himself as a common-sense Kansan conservative battling a deceitful liberal President who would run amok if re-elected.

What the speech did not contain — as the White House swiftly pointed out — was substantive new ideas, which is hardly surprising as the Dole campaign has been preoccupied almost exclusively with political positioning.

Newt Gingrich's "revolution" was inspired by intellectuals, but there are no gurus in the Dole camp. He may now be plain Mr Dole of

Kansas but his advisers are strategists, politicians and Washington insiders.

His inner circle is tiny. His "number one adviser" is his wife, Elizabeth, a former Cabinet secretary, political to her fingernails. He puts unusual trust in his campaign manager, Scott Reed, 36, a former windsurfing instructor who became the Republican National Committee's executive director. His alter ego is his long-serving Senate chief of staff, Sheila Burke, a pro-choice moderate hated by the Right.

Another key member is the campaign treasurer, Robert Lighthizer, a bright young Washington lawyer and trade hawk who must keep aloft a campaign that has spent at least \$36 million of the \$37 million permitted before August's party convention.

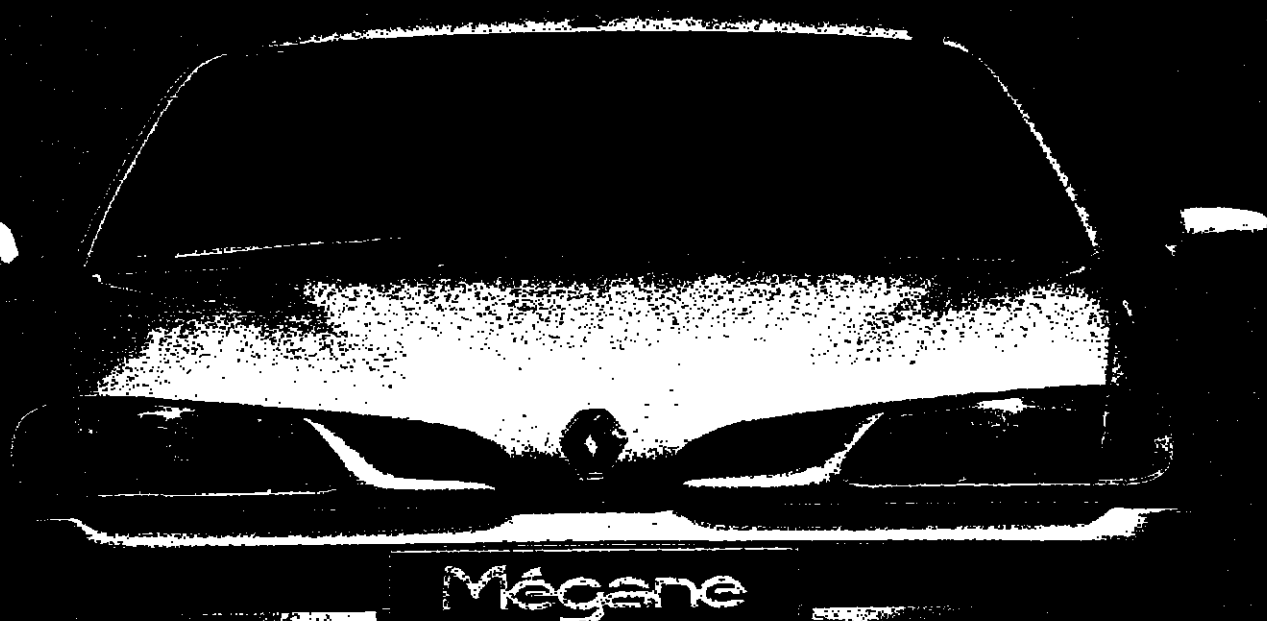
Talking the lead: The race to succeed Mr Dole as Senate leader has narrowed to Trent Lott, Republican whip and favourite, and Thad Cochran, both from Mississippi.

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Frail pontiff defies the doomsayers and doctors who are predicting journey's end

Pilgrim Pope travels on

THE Pope celebrates his 76th birthday today by defying his doctors and doing what he likes best: travelling abroad.

Instead of spending the day in the Vatican contemplating his remarkable path from Polish labourer-priest to Pope, or the stiff joints and bouts of ill health that spell the twilight of his papacy, John Paul II is in Slovenia, drawing energy from a huge youth rally at Postojna airfield and a Mass at Ljubljana hippodrome. Last month it was Tunisia, next month it will be Germany. Earlier this year he was in Central America, later he plans to visit Budapest and Paris, and perhaps Sarajevo, Slovenia is his 11th trip abroad since becoming Pope in 1978, and his first to former Yugoslavia (apart from a brief stopover in Zagreb two years ago). An exhibition of photographs

VATICAN FILE

by RICHARD OWEN



Mehmet Ali Agca shot him in the stomach. The Pope met Ali Agca's mother this week; she urged him to have her son released from an Italian jail. Ali Agca believes

his failed shots were linked to the "secrets of Fatima", a vision seen by three Portuguese girls in 1917 in which the Virgin Mary allegedly predicted a Slav Pope who would bring down Communism and avert East-West nuclear war. The Pope himself often mentions Our Lady of Fatima and presented the bullet which nearly killed him to her shrine. But he shows no sign of thinking his historic task is done. He is determined to use the time left to impose his conservative — some say, authoritarian — views on the Church in the 21st century, on matters from dissident theologians to women priests.

He is worried by the inroads made by other faiths and, closer to home, he is worried that Italy may enter the new century divided, thanks to Northern League separatism. At the Conference of Italian Bishops this week the Pope said that unity was "a precious inheritance of the Italian nation". This is not the talk of a man thinking of resignation. In 1975, the age of cardinals eligible to elect a pope was limited to 80 and there has been speculation that this age limit may also be applied to the papacy. The Pope, however, says he will remain pontiff as long as God wants him to.



The Pope leans on a crucifix at a Nicaraguan rally in February

Exorcist is seeking safe house

THE Vatican is baffled about what to do with its turbulent bishop. Mgr Emmanuel Milingo, known as the "Zambian witchdoctor" because of his mass exorcisms.

This year Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the Archbishop of Milan, banned Bishop Milingo from holding his controversial services in the Milan area, arguing that the mass hysteria caused by the bishop's "driving out of demons", which he refers to as healing, did not have official sanction.

Bishop Milingo, 66, was Archbishop of Lusaka until 1982, when his unusual style became too much even for Zambian Catholics, who "exiled" him to Rome. He has released an album of his "healing chants", called *Gubudu Gubudu* and mustered enough supporters to fill a 3,000-seat hall in Rome.

But his search for a permanent home continues: this week he was banned from Bracciano, a lakeside town in the hills near Rome, but was offered refuge in the little Ligurian town of Cervo on the Riviera coast by Mario Olivieri, Bishop of Albenga and Imperia. The Mayor of Cervo said there were so many North African immigrants on the Riviera that "colour is not important to us, even in a bishop".



Ono: says her gesture was symbolic

Torn Bible gets Yoko into dean's bad books

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE singer Yoko Ono tore pages from a Bible towards the end of a New York concert and handed them to members of the audience.

Miss Ono, who has a well-established sense of self-publicity, said that her gesture was intended to be a symbol for the "sharing of God's words". She tore the Bible at Irving Plaza, New York, where she was performing on a 17-city tour of America.

Her spokesman, Eliot Mintz, added that John Lennon's widow "has never shied away from artistic controversy". Sure enough, the Catholic League said it considered tearing the Bible "not appropriate at all", while Ray Naugle, dean of the graduate school at Lancaster Bible College, Pennsylvania, said the incident smacked of attention-seeking. "We are opposed to the desecration of the holy word of God," he said.

Miss Ono, 63, has previously shown little missionary zeal, even though in the Sixties, John Lennon said the Beatles were more popular than Jesus Christ. In an earlier concert on her tour she ripped pages from an encyclopaedia and handed them out to fans. She was performing at Tuesday night's concert with her son, Sean Lennon, and his band, Ima.

Unholy mess in square

EVERY day at 6am, when the Pope opens his window above St Peter's Square, Enrico Canfora starts work down below with his twig broom. Under the Lateran Treaty regulating relations between the Vatican and Italy, the Italian Government has to provide for "the maintenance and surveillance of St Peter's Square". Surveillance is provided by the Carabinieri, and maintenance by Signor Canfora, 49. The Pope's regular Wednesday audiences,

and his appearances on Sunday, are attended by pilgrims from all over the world, and afterwards the great square resembles a stadium after a football match, covered in cans, wrappers and other rubbish. Spanish, Mexican and East European visitors are the worst litterbugs. Signor Canfora says. He gets through a broom a week. He is hoping for reinforcements in time for the millennium, when Rome is expecting up to 40 million pilgrims and tourists.

Bishop in US bars believers who back birth control

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A BISHOP in Nebraska has become the first in America to use the Roman Catholic Church's ultimate deterrent, excommunicating believers who refuse to cut their ties with groups advocating birth control and a greater role in the Church for women.

In a bitter row that threatens to broaden into a national rift, Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz has banned Catholics in his

diocese from membership of 12 organisations including Planned Parenthood, which is the equivalent of Britain's Family Planning Association, the Freemasons and two Catholic girls' groups.

The ban, and the penalty of automatic excommunication, went into effect this week. About 30 members of a progressive Catholic group, known as Call To Action, and a number of others, instantly found themselves barred from taking Communion.

Jim McShane, a Professor of English and a lifelong Catholic who supports Call To Action's demand for consideration of women and married clergy, likened his excommunication to "spiritual capital punishment".

"It's grim," he said, admitting he feared for the state of his soul. "We have to find a way out of this. I cannot imagine walking away from the Catholic Church."

Bishop Bruskewitz said it was the first time Catholic

authorities had carried out a threat of mass excommunication since the Vatican forbade Italians from membership of both the Church and the country's Communist Party in the late 1940s.

Known as one of America's most conservative Catholic leaders, the bishop has stopped short of drawing up lists of dissidents. In an interview with *The Times*, he offered "dialogue, conversation and prayer" to draw them back into the Church, but

insisted they had incurred the ultimate sanction "by their own action, not mine".

Far from capitulating, Mr McShane and others are fighting back. One former priest and his wife, a former nun, vowed on Wednesday to continue taking Communion in defiance of the bishop's order. Call To Action lampooned his bizarre edict that women may read aloud from the Bible in Church, but only if they wear loose-fitting blouses, and never in his presence.

Vatican silences priest

Madrid: A Jesuit priest who works as religious affairs correspondent of the Spanish daily newspaper *Diario 16* has been banned from journalism by the Vatican (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Father Pedro Miguel Lamet, a member of the Society of Jesus, angered Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican's Secretary of State, by an article on the Pope's health which went into extensive detail about his having colon cancer. Father Lamet had already published

a biography of the Pope, *Hombre y Papa*, in which his health was scrutinised.

There are few subjects more delicate in the Vatican, so neither the article nor the book was received with enthusiasm. Cardinal Sodano complained to Peter Hans Kolvenbach, the Superior-General of the Society of Jesus, and Father Lamet was instructed to cease writing.

In a compromise, he has now been told he may write non-religious articles, which must pass Church censors.

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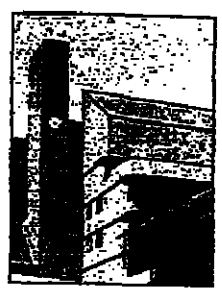
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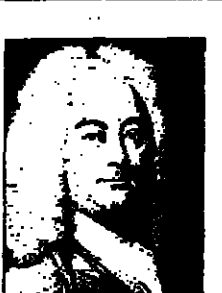


OPINION
The British Library disaster is a warning of what could happen to countless lottery projects



OPERA
Mozart's *Die Entführung* comes back to Covent Garden, superbly conducted by Sir Colin Davis

THE TIMES ARTS



ON MONDAY
Glyndebourne's bold new staging of Handel's *Theodora*: Rodney Milnes gives his verdict



NEXT WEEK
Degas of the day: *The Times* celebrates the opening of a great show at the National Gallery

Yes it hurt. No it still doesn't work. That just about sums up what the National Audit Office had to say this week about the greatest public building project of our age, in a devastating report which our fearless auditors wittily called *Progress in Completing the New British Library*.

Progress? Completion? Hold the front page! This is hot news. I thought the project was so overdue that it was heading for the largest library fines in history.

Where might a good British Librarian find this extraordinary document? Next to Kafka's *The Trial* on the Living Nightmares shelf? Alongside *Run For Your Wife* in the Long-Running Farces department? Close to *The Rake's Progress* in the Anthologies of Dismal Fecklessness section?

It's hard to choose. The NAO prose style is not exactly fruity with metaphor, yet some sentences send the reader's brain spinning into phantasmagorical realms hitherto only inhabited by the likes of Salvador Dali. The film rights

A great read; pity about the library

ought to be sold to Ken Russell. For instance, tucked away on page 45 is the fact that, by April last year, the project's quality-control team had "identified over 230,000 items needing correction". Good grief — and I thought the firm that did my double-glazing had gone bust.

So many things were wrong, it seems, that a new computerised system was introduced at a cost of £49,000 to record all items to be rectified. Yes, dear readers, that's the price of a small semi, just to find a machine capable of writing down all the mistakes without blowing itself up in a fit of indignation. But what is £49,000 in a budget of £496 million?

I suppose it says something for the honesty of British public life that such a report has been published at all. I cannot imagine any prospective overseas custom-

ers, after looking into this can of bookworms, wanting to hire British managers, workmen or architects ever again.

But of course the honesty comes at a price: nobody is castigated by name. A handful of government departments and agencies slide in and out of the 20-year story, plus some of the biggest names in the building trade, plus innumerable teams of management consultants. But when you reach the end of this messy tale, you feel as if you have ploughed through a complicated whodunnit only to find the vital last chapter is missing. Who are the guilty men? We are not told. We never will be.

Not for the first time in modern Britain, President Truman's useful phrase — "the buck stops here" — seems crucially absent from the discussion. Which is odd, because all the worst mistakes in the



RICHARD MORRISON

ghastly fiasco, rather than indulging in a witch-hunt — amusing though that might be. For the incredible fact is that we now have dozens of potential British Library-style debacles on our hands. I refer, of course, to the vast, lottery-funded redevelopments of our culture-palaces. Who's in charge of making sure that the public gets a good deal for its money on that lot? Who will do the painstaking check on ten million tiny details in a hundred different building projects, all of them being constructed simultaneously?

The short answer is nobody. The scale of the lottery handouts is too gargantuan to allow for scrupulous policing. Some projects may fail for want of strong leadership; the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition, for instance, already seems to be in disarray. Others will be fleeced by knaves and cowboys.

Others will fall years behind schedule, because nobody feels rushed when "only public money" is involved.

So in a couple of decades' time we will doubtless find ourselves discussing another damning National Audit Office report, chronicling how the "lottery dream" went horribly wrong. And we will probably shake our heads sadly and say: "What on earth were they playing at in the mid-1990s?" The answer, of course, will be that we all thought the buck stopped somewhere else.

Meanwhile, am I alone in feeling that there is something a little dodgy about this week's lottery award of £40 million to the Royal Albert Hall? Probably I am, for the grand old pile in South Ken is still held in considerable esteem. But what

irritates me is the Albert Hall's persistent claim to be the "nation's village hall": a slogan designed to convey an image of a friendly, classless place.

In fact, hundreds of the Albert Hall's prime seats and boxes are owned in perpetuity by private individuals and corporations, who can occupy their places at any time, who guard their debentures jealously, and have a large — and not entirely helpful — say in the governing of the hall.

This bizarre arrangement, which dates back to the hall's foundation, is both archaic and anarchic. Abolishing the system forthwith — if necessary by compulsory purchase orders — should have been a mandatory condition of the £40 million handout. After all, the place is either a public venue deserving of vast public funds, or it isn't. But such a notion would clearly be too dangerous and egalitarian for Lord Gowrie's Arts Council or Lord Rothschild's National Heritage Memorial Fund to contemplate.

OPERA: Rodney Milnes on the work which proves that even geniuses sometimes get it wrong

Too many notes, dear Mozart

Die Entführung aus dem Serail
Covent Garden

In the old days Mozart's early comedy was played and recorded as often as *The Magic Flute* and the Da Ponte trilogy, but in recent years it seems to have fallen slightly in general esteem. It hasn't been heard at Glyndebourne or any of the regional companies for many a season: ENO has cancelled next season's new production; Elijah Moshinsky's Royal Opera staging had gone missing for eight years before Thursday's revival.

There are obvious short-term reasons, such as the difficulty of casting; it does not go a bit deeper than that: are we nervously realising that it is not actually a very good piece, especially at a time when the stock of Mozart's other early comedy, *La finta giardiniera*, is rising so fast? The basic problem is the imbalance between the glorious music that Mozart, determined to floor the public at his Viennese debut, lavished on a trivial libretto out of stock. Too many of the arias and set numbers go on just that note too long for their dramatic context (compare and contrast



Peter Brondor and Kurt Rydl tackle early Mozart — with varying degrees of success — in Elijah Moshinsky's production

with the *Flute*). "An awful lot of notes, my dear Mozart," said the Emperor Joseph II, and he had a point.

Had a lesser composer set the libretto at a pantomime or opera comique level, there would be no problem, except that we would not be listening to the results today. But it's by

Mozart, and we are, so if the piece is to be taken at all seriously, what are we to do with Belmonte, one of most unpleasant heroes in all opera? And with Osmin? Play him as a figure of farce? Go against the music and play him in deadly earnest? Either choice is offensive, if not

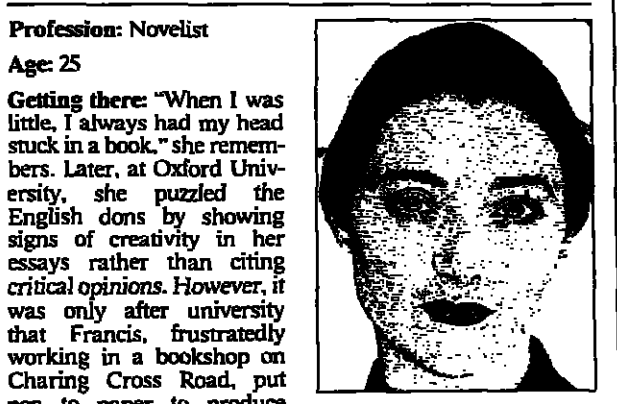
dangerous at a time when fatwabs fly. And the general level of humour is decidedly, well, Teutonic.

Despite a faint in the direction of disarming period theatrical artifice with false prosaism and float-lights, Moshinsky goes for an elaborate naturalism that the piece surely cannot sustain. This renegade Pasha with a semi-Westernised court simply would not fall for the fake-architect routine, and when Belmonte tries to loosen his fetters and is threatened by a guard with a rifle, we are in a world utterly alien to that proposed by the Stephanie-

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

SARAH FRANCIS



Profession: Novelist
Age: 25

Getting there: "When I was little, I always had my head stuck in a book," she remembers. Later, at Oxford University, she puzzled the English dons by showing signs of creativity in her essays rather than citing critical opinions. However, it was only after university that Francis, frustratedly working in a bookshop on Charing Cross Road, put pen to paper to produce fiction. Her first novel *Odd Fish* and *Englishmen* is published by Little, Brown this week.

What is it about? *Odd Fish* is a modern fable about a quietly wild Irish girl, with curious mermaid habits, who weds and is taken home by a cold, stiff English doctor. She drowns her sorrows in drink and long baths. "It is about the destructiveness of inhibitions, the need to be free and true to yourself," Francis says.

Roots: Francis grew up in a tiny Yorkshire farming village, then went to school in Surrey (Cranleigh). Further back, though, the family is Irish and Welsh: no writers but national rugby players and a grandmother who was an alcoholic lacemaker, married to a doctor with beautiful hands. "I went out of my way not to make the novel autobiographical," she says, "but some intriguing family details have sneaked in."

On her work: "Writing is a way of seeing things in my own way. I like things I can do by myself. I work during the day, not in night frenzies, because I want to do this for the rest of my life and to have a life besides writing books."

KATE BASSETT

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THEATRE 1
My dog and I: the American dramatist A.R. Gurney discusses the origins of his new play



THEATRE 2
Too measured by half? At Stratford the Royal Shakespeare Company stages the Scottish play

THE TIMES ARTS



BASE NOTE
Glenn Close will take the Diana Rigg role when Andrew Davies's *Mother Love* hits the big screen



BASE NOTE
... while, after the novel and the movie, Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse 5* is turned into opera

BASE NOTES

HOT from the Cannes Festival comes news that Glenn Close will star this autumn in a \$12 million feature film of *Mother Love*, the black comedy by Andrew Davies that was broadcast by the BBC several years ago in a production starring Diana Rigg. The film will be produced by Norma Heyman; no director has yet been announced.

● HERE'S an interesting film pairing: Kenneth Branagh and Annette Bening. The two will meet in the forthcoming film *The Gingerbread Man*, to be directed by John Dahl, who had a hit two years ago with his film noir *The Last Seduction*. The new film will be written by John Grisham, the novelist behind the Hollywood blockbusters *The Client* and *The Firm*.

● Clive Owen and the French-Canadian actor Louis L'Amour will head the cast of *Bent* when Martin Sherman's play about the Nazi persecution of homosexuals in Germany starts filming in July. The director is Sean Mathias, who is making his feature film debut after several years of theatre success here and on Broadway.

● Kurt Vonnegut's novel *Slaughterhouse 5*, which inspired a film more than 20 years ago, is now becoming an opera. The German composer Hans-Jürgen von Bose has based his new opera on Vonnegut's story of the American soldier Billy Pilgrim, who survived the bombing of Dresden by hiding in a city slaughterhouse. *Slaughterhouse 5* receives its premiere at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich on July 1; it will be conducted by the British maestro Paul Daniel, music director-designate of English National Opera.

● Steven Berkoff is to stage *Coriolanus* at the Mermaid Theatre for an eight-week season. Berkoff stars in the title role, as well as producing and directing. This is the first time Berkoff's production will be seen in London; it made its debut in New York in 1988 with Christopher Walken in the title role and was staged last year at the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds. Mounting such a production at the Mermaid, a theatre which has been dark for long spells, is a gamble, but Berkoff is optimistic. "It's an attempt to take a white elephant of a theatre and give it some artistic credibility," he explains. *Coriolanus* opens on June 12.

THEATRE: A. R. Gurney tells Benedict Nightingale about the inspiration for his new play. Plus, the RSC *Macbeth*



Life in the old dog: A.R. Gurney got the idea for *Sylvia* after his wife objected to his buying a Labrador called Lucy. Today, "they tolerate each other"

Life's a bitch, then a play

I had an odd encounter with the actress Zoë Wanamaker in A.R. Gurney Jr's New York apartment the other day. Or, more precisely, I met the beguiling Lucy, who inspired the character Wanamaker plays in Gurney's comedy, *Sylvia*, which opens at the Apollo on Monday.

She trotted happily up, dropped the cushion she was carrying in her mouth, and biffed my knee in a friendly sort of way. Then she started to play with a disintegrating object that appeared to be part ball, part woolly comforter. I gave her a pat, and she rolled onto her back, inviting me to stroke her stomach. I do not recall Wanamaker behaving like that on the previous occasions I have met her.

But then Lucy is a dog, as is the title-character of Gurney's play. Actually, she is a sleek black Labrador and classier than Sylvia by some way. Wanamaker will be embodying a grubby stray who is half poodle, half God-knows-what, and has a tendency to use non-pedigree language, especially when confronted with cats.

At 65, Gurney is one of

America's finest dramatists. Plays such as *The Dining Room* and *The Cocktail Hour*, which took a wry look at genteel New England, have won him a reputation as the bard of the fingerbowl classes, the chronicler of a dying WASP culture. But he has been broadening his range recently, not least in *Sylvia*, though he describes it as "a *jeu d'esprit*" and says he never expected to see it performed.

The play had its origins in somewhat acrimonious arguments with his wife of 38 years. You can see Mrs Gurney's point. The two of them had finished bringing up their children, moved from the country to the city — and what did Gurney proceed to do? He bought Lucy at the very time

when his wife had been looking forward to a bit of city freedom in the couple's declining years.

That decision has brought trouble outside as well as in the family, for the dog-police have been cracking down on New Yorkers who let their pets off the leash in Central Park. Recently Gurney himself was arrested and fined \$100. But Lucy did also give him the inspiration for *Sylvia*.

The play, Gurney says, is about the conflicts that occur in a marriage when the wife launches into a career at a time when the husband is calmed and getting a bit male-menopausal. "And I think it's also about instinct and the need for instinctual expression in an urban environment". But he did not launch into writing it with any such conscious aims. He wanted to play theatrical games, Ayckbourn-style, with a walking, talking yet recognisably canine dog.

The dog had to be female, or *Sylvia* would have ended up a buddy-play or taken on gay resonances Gurney did not especially want. However, this brought predictable problems when the finished piece was shown to producers who had always been sympathetic to his work. Ask a woman to play a subservient pet? Ask a self-respecting actress to be a mongrel who has fleas and calls her master "God"? Didn't Gurney know that this was America 1995, not the Garden of Eden in its patriarchal phase?

But the director John Tillingier, a friend and dog-lover, took the script to the prestigious Manhattan Theatre Club. A reading followed, at which the actress Sarah Jessica Parker demonstrated that *Sylvia* need be neither cute nor morally objectionable. And New York audiences agreed, keeping the play running for months and never voicing a single word of complaint.

Gurney is a scion of a Buffalo clan that belonged to gentlemen's clubs and went to private schools and deb-paties. But he also remembers standing at the water's edge and watching steamers which would once have stopped in the city drift on to Detroit or Chicago. He saw a great port and major centre dwindle into stately, shabby obscurity. As a result he has, as he says, tended to write about "decline, decay, decadence at a time

when the stronger tradition in American letters is the hunger for success, the rise of the successful, the *Great Gatsby* story".

He has sometimes been made to feel guilty for dwelling on themes he can hardly evade. He thinks it a bit unfair that he is categorised as a WASP dramatist when Neil Simon is not pigeonholed as a Jewish one. His first play, *Children*, actually had a successful premiere in London after a New York producer said it needed simultaneous translation for New Yorkers.

"And Wasps are still the one ethnic group you can attack with impunity. On American television the WASP always seems to be the natty lawyer who ends up as a murderer."

Is this a bore I see before me?

PRODUCTIONS of Shakespeare can stick in the memory for the oddest detail: David Warner playing Hamlet with his long woolly scarf; Mark Rylance's pyjama-clad Hamlet baring his bum; Roger Allam's Benedick puffing at a cheroot inside a hollow tree. My guess is that Tim Albery's production of the Scottish play, in which Allam plays Macbeth and Brid Brennan his Lady, will be known in future years as the one with the marvellous Porter.

The lights come up in the auditorium as Adrian Schiller, wearing Lurex pinstripes, drunkenly weaves his way along the battlements of Stewart Laing's set. Both his body language and tongue-twisting dexterity are brilliant. "I pray you, remember the porter," he tells us, and we will, but it is an odd tragedy that can be remembered as a comedy.

Albery puts the men into early 20th-century uniforms, the women in early medieval sheath-dresses, and places them on a skewed ramp against a back-curtain painted with crows making to the rooky wood; later there are bare walls and plain doors; later still, a view of burning landscapes disjunctly assembled like a Magritte and probably representing Hell.

So far, so severe, and it is a severity that extends to Allam, who picks his way with obvious care along the glittering rollercoaster of his lines, but

very seldom through his voice conveys mental turmoil. Dull human feeling, an inner landscape turned to desert — these his voice suggests as he sits, staring grimly towards us. He does cry out, to the Doctor, at the banquet, but these occasions stick out like a soar throat against what I presume to be Albery's bleak conception of the role.

How Albery conceives the play as a whole is a mystery. His production is spare — no cauldron, no Birnam branches — and during the second half becomes seriously dull. The English scene is uninteresting until Colum Convey's Macduff breaks down, at some-thing like the 220th line.

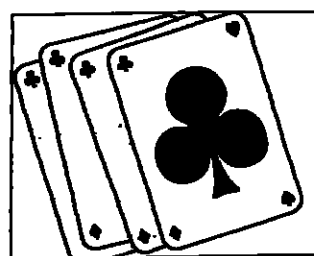
Arthur Cox gives a bluff charm to Duncan and brings gravity and alarm to the Doctor. Philip Quast's Banquo speaks well, and so do the Witches, three elderly ladies with wintry expressions: Janet Whiteside, Susannah Elliott-Knight, Jan Chappell.

Brennan's Lady is virtually a fourth witch — you can picture her digging eyes out of a living newt — and her hands, like her husband's, are eloquent. Her sleepwalking cry sends a frisson of terror up the spine. But, despite a scattering of sharply invented moments, the evening is predominantly one of dignified responses, measure and decorum. This does not seem right.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Lady Macbeth (Brid Brennan) and her murderous husband (Roger Allam) in Tim Albery's glacial *Macbeth*



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We succour Bushmen at their peril

Isolation is a desert tribe's only hope, says Bruce Anderson

The Kalahari desert in Botswana is not as impenetrable as the Sahara or the Gobi. But it is a harsh environment, which makes the Bushmen of the Kalahari all the more remarkable. Over the millennia, they have learnt to survive in conditions which would kill the average Westerner in a couple of days.

But the Bushmen are now under threat. The Government of Botswana wants their land for tourism. It has offered to resettle them in villages or towns, but that would mean the destruction of their way of life. In two respects, the Bushman attitude is typical of modern Africa. There is the assumption that the only worthwhile economic development is along Western lines, and the — not unjustified — belief that Westerners feel a romantic affinity with primitive tribes, and wish that the continent was still peopled with noble savages.

Few Botswanans have any interest in preserving the Bushmen's culture. Even if the reports of stock theft are exaggerated, it does occur, and poor peasants who have valuable animals stolen cannot be expected to react like Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society. Most Botswanans are no more sympathetic to the Bushmen than most Lowland Scots of the early 18th century were to the Highlanders.

On Thursday, another primal and endangered tribe came to the Bushmen's defence: there was a debate in the House of Lords, designed to put pressure on the Botswana Government. Lady Chalker told her fellow peers there was nothing to worry about: she had received assurances from the Botswana authorities (you have to say that sort of thing if you are a Foreign Office minister). In the politest possible way, their lordships were unimpressed. To be fair to Lynda Chalker, she seemed happy to give ground; the British High Commissioner would be instructed to investigate the matter.

Though more than twice the size of Britain, Botswana is a tiny country in population terms, with a reasonable Government. There is still a good deal of British influence. It is one of the few countries in which the course of events could change as a result of the Lords debate, so perhaps the present scheme will be halted. But the threat will remain. The advanced world and the Bushmen cannot live together.

Every day, the Bushman confronts the struggle for survival. After hours of tracking — hours of skill, patience and endurance — what is his reward? A few grubs, a rodent, a frog, a bird, roots and berries, a very occasional buck; brackish water. Sometimes the hunting fails. Bushmen die of hunger and thirst, which the West could alleviate in an instant; they die of diseases and injuries which our medicine could easily cure and heal. But we succour them at their peril.

If they realised that food need not be hunted; that it could come out of a tin, just as water could come from a tap — for how long would they retain their skills? If they realised that there were aid agencies with money which could provide previously unimaginable comforts, how long would their self-respect last? If they became aware — this is the hardest of all — that children who die in the desert could easily be saved in the town, how long would it be before they moved to the town?

So far, the dangers have been avoided: just. On occasions, the Bushmen's neighbours have been at least as cruel to them as earlier Australians were to the Aborigines, but fortunately Botswana is neither rich enough nor guilt-ridden enough to complete the act of destruction with handouts and welfare.

So far, also, the Bushmen have shown no desire to trade their precarious subsistence for an easier life, much to the incomprehension of the Botswana Government, which cannot believe that anyone would choose to live as the Bushmen do. But a few more years of exposure to the temptations of civilisation, and the Botswanans' scepticism would surely be vindicated. How long could the Bushmen survive television? They have survived up to now because the Kalahari is remote, but with modern communications and tourism, the concept of the remote has almost been abolished. The Bushmen will be at risk until they are segregated.

It is not enough to thwart a particular scheme. We have to persuade, and bribe, the Botswana authorities to fence off a huge area as a Bushman reserve, denying access not only to fire-water, missionaries and tourists, but to aid workers and most doctors as well. This may sound a more appropriate means of dealing with an endangered animal species than with members of the human race. But what is the alternative?

The Bushmen may benefit from two otherwise deplorable Western tendencies: self-hatred and sentimentalism. The self-hatred applies to colonialism. Our forebears were confident in their right to save subject peoples' souls and rule their bodies; in so doing they brought great advantages to most of the territories they governed.

But it is no longer fashionable to say so; per contra, it may be easier to argue that the Bushmen must be left alone. The sentiment comes from Sir Laurens van der Post, who believes that the West could learn from the Bushmen. This is nonsense. All the virtues he ascribes to them can also be found in Christianity. After two millennia of sinfulness, we are not about to be instructed by hunter-gatherers from the Kalahari. But the belief that the Bushmen have a special residue of wisdom may also be used to justify special treatment.

As long as we are never naive enough to believe that they could be relied on to behave as Sir Laurens would wish them to, living on the fringes of civilisation, but remaining immune to it. That would make them either sub-human or super-human; they are neither. There is only one solution: to turn that fringe of civilisation into a fence.

Bruce Anderson is political columnist of The Spectator.

Michael Gove on communitarianism, the fashionable ideology that has bewitched Left and Right

There is a spectre haunting political debate — the spectre of communitarianism. A novel, and to the public, still hazy, political philosophy — its wooliness perfect for new Labour — it is the sheep's clothing which cloaks the Left's fundamental desire to boss.

Three evangelists have brought communitarianism out of the academy and onto the hustings: the American Amitai Etzioni, and the Britons David Selbourne and John Gray. A philosophical critique of liberalism has become a political programme, heard in Jack Straw's assaults on vagrants, Gordon Brown's compulsory labour schemes for the unemployed and Tony Blair's rhetoric of responsibilities.

The tone of voice used by communitarian thinkers is deliberately cosy, a mix of the homespun and homiletic. Couching its lessons in the language of the hearth or pulpit, communitarianism deplores both moral and conservative to disarm opponents. It also tries to tap into nostalgia for an age of shared values and settled patterns of employment, by suggesting that the security we associate with a time now past (and usually mythical) can be gently massaged back into existence. But the political reality of communitarianism is coercion. In the name of the community, individual rights are curtailed, agencies empowered to intervene and the State encouraged to regulate.

One of the appeals of communitarianism to new Labour is its ability to appear at the same time reassuringly traditional in tone and also attractively novel in comparison to "failed" political theories. Communitarians parody the old Left as apologists of a something-for-nothing society and the new Right as devil-take-the-hindmost individualists. Tony Blair's success in suggesting that new Labour has somehow evolved beyond Left and Right, and has become a "one nation" party, is a tribute to the influence of communitarianism. It is also a reproach to the Right, who used to occupy both the territory where new political ideas were developed and the patriot's solid ground.

This week, however, sees signs of a fightback. The ascendancy of communitarianism has provoked a response from two Conservative thinkers in pamphlets published this week: Damian Green's *Communitarianism in the Countryside* (Social Market Foundation, £10) and John Marenbon's *Answering the Challenge of Communitarianism* (Politeia, £7.50).

New community is merely old coercion

The two tracts reflect the backgrounds of the two authors. Dr Marenbon is a Cambridge don, whose polymathic range encompasses English literature, medieval philosophy and modern political thought. Mr Green is a former Downing Street policy adviser, now prospective parliamentary candidate for the safe seat of Ashford. Dr Marenbon's pamphlet takes on communitarianism as a political philosophy, while Mr Green's paper concentrates on concrete policy suggestions.

The two papers also betray the authors' distinct ideological assumptions. Mr Green is a man of the Tory Left, and in the tradition of Macmillan and Heath, he seeks an accommodation with the enemy. They sought a constructive rather than a confrontational relationship with organised labour, and Mr Green tries the same technique with communitarians. He criticises, most wittily when he deprecates them for "decade abuse" — the lazy labelling of

a period such as the Eighties as a time of unredeemed moral squalor. But Mr Green accepts the Etzioni analysis that the community has a "moral voice", and tries to provide Tory answers to its demands. Deregulation to allow a single village enterprise to be simultaneously corner shop, off-licence, post office and garage should ensure that each service is more likely to survive. Removing regulations in other areas — to allow villages more easily to provide their own policing, to keep education local and to experiment with *ad hoc* public transport — are also worthwhile. Mr Green recognises that this may mean "patchy provision" of such services, but argues that "we should revel in the unorthodox, the local quirk".

Quite so. But the quirky and the unorthodox are, by definition, the product of the enterprising individual. Mr Green argues for provision from the bottom up, but communitarianism seeks to stifle that spirit. As

Dr Marenbon points out, in Etzioni's model, your neighbours will, unbidden, recommend you a gardener, should your lawn be insufficiently neat. Dr Marenbon sees communitarianism for what it is, and takes it on. He pays it the compliment of recognising its appeal at a time of rapid economic change and dislocation. But he also sees that it is a licence for the perennial preoccupation of the Left, expansion of the role of government. From Peter Mandelson's state dowry to David Blunkett's plans to squeeze out selection, new Labour wants, in the name of community, to trammel the choices of individuals and families. Dr Marenbon goes on to argue persuasively that communitarianism threatens not only "individual autonomy" but also attacks "the integrity and survival of individual cultural and ethical traditions".

Dr Marenbon argues, instead, for a "medial state" which performs only those tasks for which there is an enduring acceptance of its role. It would go beyond the minimal state, in ensuring access to health services and education, but would not itself supply those goods, only the means to enjoy them, probably through vouchers. It is a bracing vision, and one for which few are now willing to argue; but if the ancient liberties which are the surest foundations of civil society are to survive and be strengthened, the smaller state will need articulate advocates in the months ahead.

The man who never stopped

William Morris's art defies attempts to debunk him as a hypocrite or to claim him as a Modernist

The William Morris show at the Victoria and Albert Museum is a humbling experience. Most centuries bequeath great achievements. The 19th century bequeaths great lives. Even Lytton Strachey's Eminent Victorians grew taller as he debunked them. This week, Britain's art critics have tried to debunk William Morris, portraying him as a fey, Utopian, money-making hypocrite. Instead they have larded praise on the ludicrous brick artist, Carl Andre. To such twisted bathos has art criticism degenerated.

We sceptics are warned to steer clear of heroes, but Morris comes close to being mine. Quite apart from his art, I love his confidence, his success, his melancholy, his pragmatism, his vision, his zest for every-

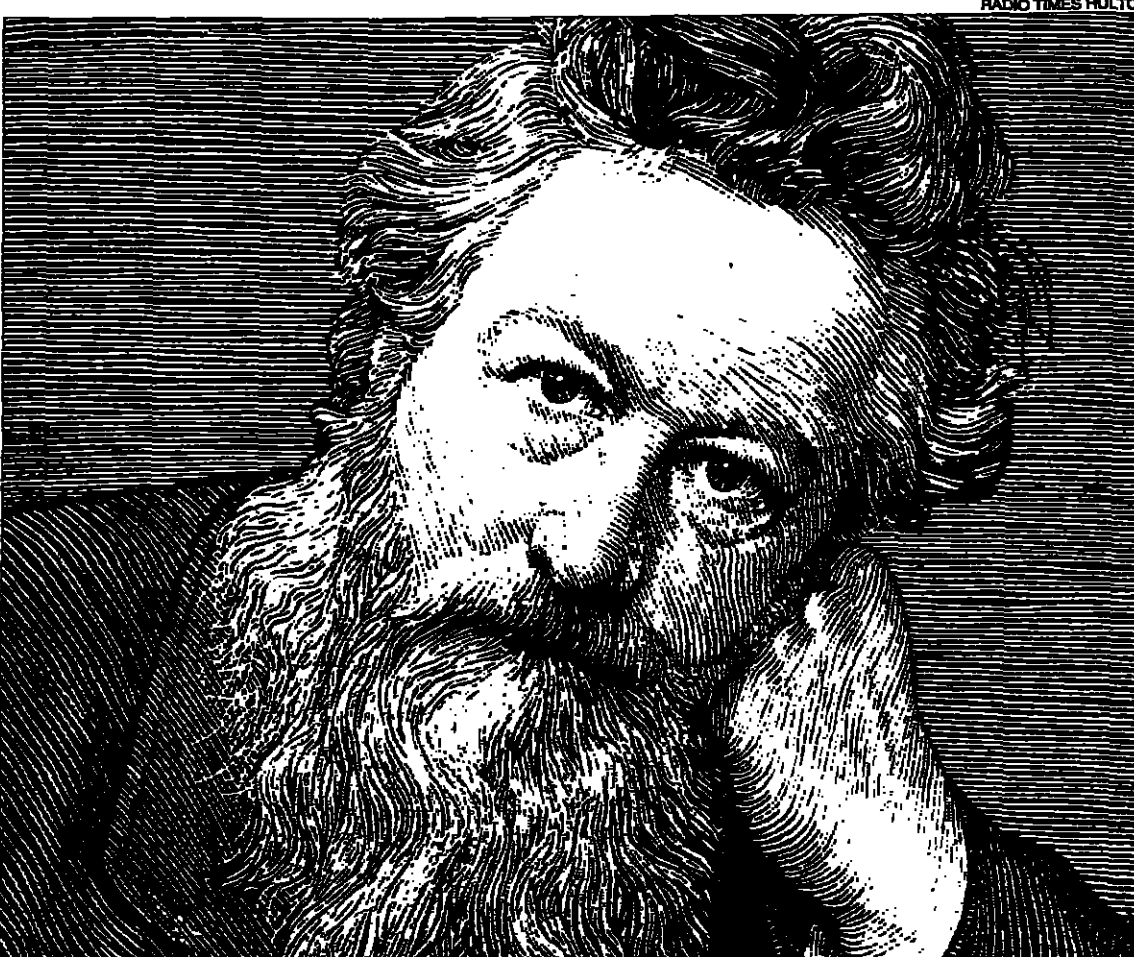
refashioned in wood, stone, fabric, dye and paper. They were to the age what the Green movement is today, but being Victorians they practised what they preached. Morris collected his own herbs and bark, boiled his own dyes, carved his own blocks. The output of his firm appealed to a nation grown weary of mass production. Morris furniture and fabrics, stained glass and murals, carpets and tapestries came to cloak the walls and floors of England, and later of the Empire. They redecorated St James's Palace and gave flair to Victoriana. Morris never stopped. He was a Victorian Leonardo, Vanbrugh or Jefferson, one of those, said E.P. Thompson, "whom history will never overtake".

The exhibition concentrates on Morris the designer, but that is only half the man. Morris was always a figure of fun, emerging from Fiona MacCarthy's admirable biography as big-hearted yet inhibited and vulnerable. He was the more so when he lost Jane to the lascivious Rossetti, an infidelity tolerated since he loved sex to be as abhorrent if not based on "natural desire and kindness", and therefore presumably acceptable where it is.

Morris wrote nostalgic poetry by the ream. Like most of his generation (and perhaps ours) he saw in the past a key to social contentment and family happiness. He craved the simplicities of pre-industrial England: "Forget the spreading of the hideous town; / Think rather of the pack-horse on the down." He wandered round his beloved country churches. Later in life he escaped Jane's escapades and explored Nordic Iceland.

Many critics find in this little but hypocritical. Here was a rich man indulging in a rich man's fantasies. He was ignoring the prosperity that industrialisation had brought to the poor, the belief in the Utopia of natural materials. Not since the Middle Ages had glass been so liberated to capture and transmit colour.

By study and experiment, Morris and Burne-Jones had reinvented an art form. Their Victorian Renaissance was that of nature observed,



This woodcut by Bryden shows Morris as dreamer, poet and artist — but he was also a capitalist

hypocritical one. No genius was ever consistent. Morris did not "cross the river of fire" to socialism until his fifties. The conversion was both naive and furious. He read *Das Kapital* in French and later had Cobden-Sanderson bind it, "in deep turquoise leather with elaborate gilt-tooled decoration of buds and spots and stars". Webb duly declared *Das Kapital* "a beautiful work".

Morris raced from faction to faction, from anarchism to communism, from Social Democratic Federation to Socialist League. He pleaded with a friend "for statistics I am but a poet and an artist, good for nothing but sentiment". He despised parliamentary democracy and espoused street uprising and revolution. His novel, *News from Nowhere*, is an undergraduate essay by a middle-aged man, autobiographically portraying a dream world in which men and women, town and country, art and industry, coexist in harmonious concord.

Yet we cannot judge such a human response to Victorian England from a century later. Morris's socialism was naive, but it was from a heart worn on his sleeve. How much worse was

the cruelty of his contemporaries. For me this is of no account. Morris's supreme quality was his eye for the world about him. He advocated the direct study of the ancients, "or we shall be influenced by the feeble work all round us". He suffered none of today's "Past Shock" and would never have sneered at a historic building as a theme park. He pleaded for the continuity of British culture. In this cause he was a founder of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, of the Commons Preservation Society and a dozen other conservation groups.

Morris became the ultimate committee man. He wrote to *The Times*. He formulated and organised and travelled. He had a furious row with the vicar of Burford church, who was about to "scrape" every inch of that medieval masterpiece. Yet Morris also sought to fill churches with modern masterpieces where appropriate. In contrast to most insipid Victorian windows, those of Morris and Co, usually designed by Burne-Jones, shine like jewels in the gloom (for example, Lyndhurst in Hampshire or St Michael's, Brighton). The aim of art, he said with his usual

directness, "is to make a man's work happy and his rest fruitful". Fill your house, he advised, with nothing that is not beautiful or useful.

Morris, himself no great artist, was the ultimate applier of art to the practical world. There is a somewhat desperate attempt at the V&A show (aided by some quotes from Pevsner) to claim him as the "first Modernist". He was nothing of the sort. The essence of Modernism is terror of revivalism, a rejection of the past and a fear of its lessons, and worse its popularity. Morris fought such fear all his life. He showed that the simplest evocations of nature, the most endearing fantasies, could capture the imagination and leave their stamp on every English home.

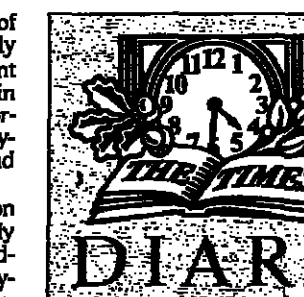
My earliest encounter with him was gazing at a nursery wall as a child. A stucco leaf spiralled upwards on its stalk, bursting occasionally into flower. The plant never seemed to end or grow tired. It needed no watering. I wondered that the sap could rise so high and the petals never fade. I was gazing at a Morris pattern, I never forgotten because it was born of his "lavish treasure house of human hope".

More anon

ANONYMOUS, the author of *Primary Colours*, the thinly fictionalised novel about President Clinton's presidential campaign in 1992, is breaking cover. In tomorrow's *New York Times*, Anonymous writes of his anonymity and the book's roaring success.

Having addressed the question of whether this Anonymous with the headline "No, Really, I Am Anonymous", he complains of "post-traumatic success disorder" and describes his strange new double life. "My spouse nuzzled my neck one evening," the author writes, "and asked, 'Can I... yknow... with Anonymous tonight?'" It proved a distressingly memorable experience, though there was a metaphysical hangover: had I been unfaithful to myself?

In sum, however, Anonymous seems happy with the decision to remain unknown: "Anonymous is more demure and dignified than I am... anonymity imposes a strict discipline and an almost religious humility. I am a better person for having kept my mouth shut. And a freer one." From the furious house-



building he is engaged in and his Delphic replies to questioning, the general consensus is that Anonymous is Joe Klein, the Washington Bureau Chief for Newsweek.

Bad nudes

PRUDES on Lambeth council have censored a performance by the French circus troupe Archais to take place next week at the Brixton Academy. To the troupe's Globe of Death, in which motorcyclists chase each other at dizzying speeds, Lambeth said fine. To the wire-walkers, stuntmen and the entire

French Olympic trampoline team, *pas de problème*. When it came to a naked man swinging in a cage, however, the council turned green.

"It goes against one of our miscellaneous regulations," said a spokesman for the council. "If they were in Soho, they might be able to get a licence, but we do not allow naked people in the Academy. We have suggested tights or a G-string to cover him up." Archais have their trademark chainsaws out. "For Lambeth, this is raunchy erotica, but for us the naked man is an image of innocence."

Lord "Way" Jenkins goes public next week for the first time about the speech impediment that has given rise to backstage sniggers throughout his political career. "It's a sort of semi-physical deficiency," he says on the BBC portrait *A Very Social Democrat*. "I am not claiming sympathy for it. A whole variety of people — like the old Lord Salisbury — have not been able to pronounce their R's very wuggly. But that's perhaps a word I oughtn't to use too often."

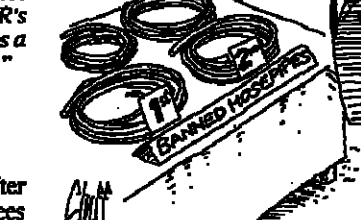
Deep-rooted

PONTEFRAC is in turmoil after the felling of 20 of the Queen's trees

to make way for development. The trees which lined the Yorkshire town's racecourse were, to some minds, as essential to Pontefract as its liquorice cakes.

Having chopped them down without council permission, the Duchy of Lancaster, which owns the land, is backtracking. Roger Freeman, Chancellor of the Duchy, has apologised to Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse, Pontefract and Castleford's grizzled Labour MP, promising to replace the trees a.s.a.p.

Lofthouse, a former miner and formidable bruiser, is grudging. "I suppose it's a semi-victory," he growled. "But the site looks awful."



and you can't just get trees back, can you?"

Sizzling

REASSURING wafts of eggs and bacon have been floating across the Croisette in Cannes over the last few days. They are coming from a 120ft gin palace offshore, the preserve of the Sino Club, a London dive favoured by media types.

Most of their members were heading south for the film festival, so the club reckoned it might as well follow, hiring the yacht and serving all-day breakfasts on board. Among the hangover cases using *La Venezia* have been the pop singers Mick Jagger, Noel Gallagher and Chrissie Hynde.

One problem, however, is dogging the venture: a bolshie French crew. "Mutiny," mutters the club manager Mick Jones. "All the nine of them do all day is sit, drink coffee and moan." Unlike the club's members, of course.

Florists are reporting a run on the new rose *Madam Speaker*, launched as a tribute to Betty Boothroyd to coincide with the Chelsea Flower Show. MPs are desperate to sport it in the buttonhole to catch the Speaker's eye at Ques-



Cannes do: Mick Jagger and Chrissie Hynde breakfast offshore



Time in the Commons. David Nicholson, Conservative MP for Taunton, has already sported the red rose in the chamber. "I had to take it off," he says. "I didn't want my constituents to think I was supporting Labour."

family postcards on sale in Balmoral gift shops. The photographs, taken last summer at the Queen's Highland retreat, include snaps of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh with all their immediate family except for the Yorks and the Princess of Wales. "There is nothing sinister here at all," insists Buckingham Palace. "Prince Andrew and his two daughters were simply not available." Still, the exclusion must have come as a chilly foretaste of life to come.

Framed

WITH just days of married life left for the Duke and Duchess of York, they have been frozen out of the royal picture. Neither the couple nor the Princesses, Beatrice and Eugenie, feature in the new set of

P.H.S

فكرنا من الأصل



HISTORY'S DISPOSSESSED

From Indonesia to Kalahari: how to help the natives

The absorption or subjugation of indigenous peoples by encroachers on their land — the choice of noun depends on the standpoint from which their story is told — is a tale as old as time. For the conquistadors, the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers and the men and women dispatched to Botany Bay, the outcome of these confrontations between more advanced (and better armed) civilisations and primitive societies was as obvious and unquestioned as it had been for millennia: the conqueror took all.

In recent years, some conquerors have begun to look over their shoulders. Words such as primitive are losing derogatory significance; increasingly, the definition of progress is qualified by the question "in whose eyes, and for whose benefit?" What ought to be the responsibilities and duties of the dominant culture in light of these changing perspectives? This week, three different chapters in this conflict have highlighted the difficulty of giving answers.

In Australia, the swearing in yesterday of Bob Belear as the country's first aboriginal judge has been hailed as a symbol of interracial reconciliation. That it may be; but equally symbolic of how history is irreversible is Judge Belear's decision to become a lawyer in the first place. Only as part of the modern institutional world, he realised, could he fight for Australia's "first nation". Aborigines are beginning to win claims for ancestral lands; but the great majority have said farewell, and not always with regret, to hunter-gatherers' ways.

To the northwest of the Torres Strait, where some of these claims are now being laid, lies the home of the Papuans. The line that divides their island is between justice and injustice. The eastern half, once Australian, is now independent Papua-New Guinea. In the west, which was formerly Dutch, 250 tribes live according to customs little changed since the Stone Age. In the relief at

the rescue this week of British and other hostages, captured last January by fighters of the Free Papua Movement (OPM), the tale of their captors has had little attention.

The departing Dutch intended independence for these Oceanic Melanesians, who are as different from the Asiatic Indonesians as they were from the Dutch. But thanks to one of the most unedifying episodes in the history of UN electoral supervision, Dutch New Guinea became Irian Jaya, part of Indonesia. Since then, thousands of Papuans have been killed by Indonesian troops suppressing protests against Indonesian rule and the vast Freeport mine which encroaches on one of the world's last wildernesses.

It is fashionable in many Western quarters now to be in favour of conservation and against mining. But in Irian Jaya, the young British scientists were seized because a proposed natural park, whose flora and fauna they were innocently mapping, is resisted by the OPM and some local people as an encroachment on tribal lands. Similarly, on the other side of the world, Khwe bushmen are bitterly contesting plans by the Botswana Government to move them out of the Kalahari game reserve. Cattle ranching has already pushed southern Africa's bushmen out of much of their traditional land. Now the 3,000 Khwe on the reserve, who are among the last to live mainly by traditional hunting and plant-gathering, fear that conserving lions and tourist revenue will take priority over their rights.

An enlightened society can and must do what it can to protect the rights of primitive peoples. But it will succeed only in part. Claude Lévi-Strauss the great anthropologist, tells how in the depths of the Amazon, he met a tribe whose rumoured existence he was on the way to observe. They too had heard rumours, of the modern world. They were on their way to find it.

HOWARD'S PLAY

The Home Secretary seeks Tory common ground on Europe

There is no hope of uniting the Conservative Party on the issue of Europe this side of a general election. Thus a reasonable Tory task is to devise a stance that maximises the number of MPs prepared to back it. Michael Howard's White Paper on Europe, was one attempt. Michael Howard's speech yesterday on the reform of the European Court of Justice was another.

The powers of the ECJ annoy not just the Euro-sceptics in the Tory party, but also the vast majority of their colleagues. Mr Howard managed to win plaudits yesterday from MPs as far apart as Iain Duncan Smith (right-wing sceptic) and Sir Peter Hordern (centrist pro-European). This issue has the power to bring together all but the most extreme factions of the Conservative Party, those who want to pull out of the European Union altogether Tory members of the European Parliament who have been captured by federalist interests.

But while the Home Secretary's speech may act as a rallying cry, his specific proposals are tentative. During discussions in Cabinet, Mr Howard appears to have acceded to a majority, led by the Lord Chancellor, which rejects rendering some judgments of the Court inoperative in Britain, as suggested by Mr Duncan Smith. Most legal opinion holds that such an objective can be achieved only by repealing Section 2(1) of the European Communities Act, under which the British courts undertake to follow and enforce EU law as developed by the ECJ.

Since the principle underlying that clause is central to the EU's philosophy and system, such a move would provoke a general

political crisis. Britain's membership of the EU would be in doubt. Voluntarily throwing Britain's place in the Union into question would be a gift to Chancellor Kohl and others who might like to rid themselves of the restraints of Britain's constitutional veto inside the EU. In recognition of this, the Home Secretary confined himself yesterday to supporting the Government's reformist agenda for the Court: limits to liability in retrospective judgements, streamlined procedures and safeguards against the loose treaty drafting which has led to so much trouble in the past.

Britain's best chance of winning a more flexible relationship with the rest of the EU is to negotiate from a position of strength. Britain has a veto on constitutional change. If other EU states eventually want to proceed with projects that Britain wants no part of, let them make the approach and offer something to this country in exchange. To attempt to undermine the EU's legal order would not necessarily or always be against British interests. But it would throw away a negotiating advantage of no small value.

Mr Howard's advocacy of "variable geometry", which allows states more choice about which policies they join, is welcome. We have often argued it in this column. But the design of such geometry is no simple matter. Britain's partners, out of frustration with this country's intransigence, could refuse to agree to a British vision, decide to tear up the Treaty of Rome and start again. The negotiating position for those, like Mr Howard, who want Britain to remain in a looser EU, is politically hard to convey to a party that yearns for simple solutions.

TIES THAT BIND US

A civic example from the Charles Douglas-Home Prize winner

From Westminster and Whitehall it is easy to paint a picture of British society imploding under the influence of job insecurity, family breakdown and moral decay. The evidence is all around politicians in London: drugs, crime, urban deprivation. A sense of lost community pervades the more thoughtful political speeches.

Matthew d'Ancona's study of civic values in Swindon, the project which won the 1995 Charles Douglas-Home Prize, is published in our magazine today. It draws a far less gloomy conclusion. This week President Chirac, touring a regenerated Easterhouse in Scotland, was also impressed by the extent to which hope can be reborn through community action. As Mr d'Ancona writes: "It is easy — and tempting — to dismiss the idea that voluntary work can be a potent force of social cohesion in a post-modern society habituated to State intervention and individualistic behaviour". But the evidence of Swindon, Glasgow and other pockets of the country proves this to be wrong.

Swindon ought to be one of the least promising towns in Britain in which to discover a civic identity — which is precisely why Mr d'Ancona chose it. It has no cathedral, no famous architecture, no civic centre, no cultural heart. It has an astonishingly high turnover of population: the electoral register changes by 25 per cent a year. And it has lost what used to be its *raison d'être*: the train-building industry.

Yet Mr d'Ancona found a civic spirit not just thriving, but evolving to match the times. Railways are still a part of the

Swindon folk memory and evoke to many a paternalistic past in which churches, schools, hospitals, libraries and clubs were provided by the town's main employer. But this history is just one strand in an embroidery of threads that make up the community's identity. A greater bond is high technology, which symbolises a common aspiration towards getting on in life.

Even the rapid turnover of population and labour mobility has been turned towards the town's advantage. One interviewee, head of his local residents' association, reveals in this: "Swindon is full of people who have made it recently," he says. "Nobody asks: where was his father born? Where did he go to university? I like that. I like the here and now." This rootlessness has if anything contributed to a desire to help others. According to Mr d'Ancona, "charitable work vies with support for Swindon Football Club as the town's principal leisure-time activity".

The lesson from both Swindon and Easterhouse is that the collective spirit in human society is remarkably resilient. The Times has always believed in the value of what Edmund Burke christened "little platoons". This was a central tenet in the philosophy of Charles Douglas-Home, editor of *The Times* from 1982 to 1985, to whose memory is dedicated both this award and the top Community Enterprise Award, given annually under the auspices of Business in the Community to groups who share our faith in the power of community spirit. Untouched by government, people can, together, achieve great things.

Ethics of fertility treatment for people with HIV

From Professor Michael Adler, Chairman of the National Aids Trust

Sir, The critical issue in the debate over whether women with HIV should be given IVF treatment in order to conceive (report and article, May 14; leading article, May 15) is not whether modern medical science should aid their pursuit of conception: it is whether people with HIV are deemed by society to be acting responsibly if they decide, having weighed the issues, to conceive at all.

Naturally we empathise with the concerns being expressed in this area. At the same time our understanding of HIV/AIDS has evolved over the past 15 years, and there have been significant developments both in terms of treatments that reduce the risk of HIV's vertical transmission from a mother to her child, and in terms of the life expectancy of individuals who have the virus.

It is misleading to label HIV, as your leader does, as automatically "highly communicable" from mother to child when the great majority of babies in this situation can now be delivered free of HIV infection. Your report alludes to US clinical trials where antiretroviral treatments administered during pregnancy reduced the rate of HIV transmission to the region of 7 to 10 per cent. Future protocols and innovations applied at the respective stages of conception, pregnancy and delivery are likely to further reduce this risk.

On the issue of the life expectancy of the HIV-positive parent it must be remembered that people with the virus can and are living full and active lives for a considerable period — on average a decade and more — before AIDS is actually diagnosed. Indeed, treatment centres report a number of cases of "long-term non-progressors": individuals who were diagnosed with HIV in the early 1980s remain fully healthy to this day and show no signs whatsoever of developing AIDS.

Legislation on IVF already and quite rightly requires the interests of the potential child to be properly considered. We do not believe there should be absolute rules one way or the other for couples affected by HIV who seek this treatment. Such cases

should be considered on their own merits, with particular attention paid to the issue of the level of support available to the child from a surviving parent and the wider family in the event of any tragic bereavement.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ADLER,
Chairman, National Aids Trust,
Eileen House,
80 Newington Causeway, SE1,
May 17.

From Contessa Josephine Quintavalle

Sir, Can we honestly criticise Professor Lord Winston for providing IVF treatment to a woman who is HIV-positive? It seems to me we have given doctors in this field carte blanche to do anything they feel like.

You report that the British Medical Association believes that doctors should be trusted to use their judgment. Professor Winston has done just that — used his judgment — regardless of public opinion.

Core (Comment on Reproductive Ethics) was aware of IVF treatment for HIV-positive patients as long ago as May 1995 but, on questioning, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) was unable to give any precise opinion as to what they thought about this particular issue, let alone admit that this practice was already taking place.

The part of the HFEA in this particular episode reflects their usual approach to tricky issues: "worried in principle about the problems involved, but [feels] that the decision should be taken by doctor and patients" (report, May 14). This is not ethics but anarchy. It must surely be obvious to everybody that ethical decisions regarding IVF treatment cannot be made by the practitioners of IVF or by their puppet ethics committees, let alone trusted to the pass-the-buck attitude of the current HFEA.

We will continue our two-year campaign for reform of the HFEA.

Yours sincerely,
JOSEPHINE QUINTAVALLE
(Co-Founder, Core),
PO Box 4593, London SW3 6XE,
May 14.

Metal detecting

From the Director of the Council for British Archaeology

Sir, My remark about metal detecting being a "working class hobby" in your report on the Treasure Bill ("Treasure seekers find law change a threat", May 11) may have seemed patronising, having been disembodied from its context in which I was trying to make wider points.

Among these was the proposition that if some metal detectorists regard archaeology as elitist, or if sections of Britain's public feel alienated from archaeology's aims, the cause and remedy for such a communication failure are to a large extent matters for the archaeological community itself to address.

Your report suggested that "many" archaeologists wish to see metal detecting banned. Any who do can speak for themselves, but this is not the view of my council.

Our policy, which was recently endorsed by more than 20 national archaeological and museum organisations, is to back the Government's proposal for a voluntary scheme to encourage the reporting of archaeological finds.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MORRIS, Director,
Council for British Archaeology,
Bowes Morrell House,
111 Walmgate, York,
May 13.

Water disconnections

From Ms Barbara Murphy

Sir, Your reference to Thames Water as having the "highest household disconnections at 1,075" (report, Business, May 8) needs to be put into context. In isolation, it does not take into account the fact that Thames Water also has the greatest number of customers.

The rate per 10,000 households is a more accurate reflection of Thames Water's position. In 1995-96 Thames Water had a disconnection rate of four per 10,000 households, which is close to the national average of three households per 10,000.

Yours sincerely,
BARBARA MURPHY,
Customer Services Manager,
Thames Water Utilities,
PO Box 482,
Swindon, Wiltshire,
May 8.

Supermarket schemes

From the Editor of Customer Loyalty Today

Sir, Few in the marketing world will be surprised to hear that Sainsbury is at last giving way and launching a loyalty card (report, May 9). Like it or not, loyalty cards have become central to the strategy of most major US, and now UK, supermarkets.

The Nineties have seen a significant move from mass marketing to customer-specific marketing, which provides better rewards for more valuable customers.

A logical development of this is "stealth" marketing, in which considerable competitive advantage is gained by making different offers, privately, to selected customers, either via the mail or (more economically) by printing specific coupons electronically at the store entrance or checkout.

Variants of one such programme (already in use in the UK) are used in

many thousands of stores in the US, where a database of some 40 million customers is maintained — claimed to be one of the largest marketing databases in the world.

Sainsbury remains tight-lipped about its plans, but I would be surprised if its new loyalty programme did not incorporate an element such as this.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN CLARK, Editor,
Customer Loyalty Today,
London House, Broad Street,
Somerset, Somerset,
May 10.

From Mr Andrew Dyke

Sir, I read your report about supermarket loyalty card competition with some concern. How is this activity to be regulated? Clearly the Personal Investment Authority have the necessary bureaucratic skills, but they are rather busy just now making sure that pensions providers and advisers write to everyone who has bought a personal pension policy recently, just in case they don't like what they bought.

We need a new regulatory authority to supervise supermarket loyalty cards — Offitrolley, perhaps. They could also investigate price differences — I find I have bought baked beans recently at 26p a can at one supermarket which other supermarket chains are selling at 9p. Clearly I have been misled my baked beans and someone must compensate me.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW DYKE,
40 Compton Road,
Winchmore Hill, N21.

From the Chairman of the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority

Sir, Dominic Kennedy's report today set out a number of issues surrounding the treatment of HIV-positive patients. There is a further point that should be made.

In passing the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act in 1990, Parliament decided that no particular category of person should be excluded from treatment. The law does state however that clinics must take account of the welfare of the potential child before offering treatment to anyone.

To assist clinics in forming protocols to take account of the welfare of the child, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority does provide guidance through its code of practice. Ultimately, the decision to treat an individual seeking treatment must be left to the clinician in charge.

Taking account of the welfare of the child is not a light matter. Clinics must take account of a number of factors, including the prospective parents' age and medical histories, their attitude to having a family, and any risk of harm to a potential child or other children in the family.

As you rightly report, the HFEA would be concerned if a clinic routinely treated couples where the man or woman was HIV-positive.

Yours sincerely,
RUTH DEECH,
Chairman,
Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority,
Paxton House, 30 Arillery Lane, E1,
May 14.

From Dr Robert Isaacson

Sir, I read your editorial criticism of Professor Winston's decision to provide IVF treatment for an HIV-positive patient.

I recently had a lady in my surgery who requested I remove her contraceptive coil as she wished to conceive. She was HIV-positive and I complied with her request. Was I wrong?

Yours sincerely,
R. ISAACSON,
10 Alberon Gardens, NW11,
May 15.

Living wills

From Mrs L. E. Vickers

Sir, I agree with Dr Burns-Cox (letter, May 10) about the usefulness of wills, living wills, donor cards and enduring powers of attorney. But, sadly, the standard enduring power of attorney under the 1985 Act confines itself to "all my property and affairs".

However, the draft Bill attached to the Law Commission's report on mental incapacity (Law Commission Report No. 231) proposes replacing enduring powers by a new continuing power of attorney which may extend to the donor's personal welfare, healthcare, property or affairs, and will give the donee authority to make decisions which the donor is without capacity to make.

Yours faithfully,
L. E. VICKERS (solicitor),
21 Park Gate, W5,
May 10.

Boxing clever

From Mr Nicholas Baldock

Sir, Lennox Lewis is to be paid £4 million not to fight Mike Tyson (report, May 17).

Mr Tyson should know that, for a more modest sum, I too would be prepared not to fight him.

Yours etc,
NICHOLAS BALDOCK,
118 Hydelhorpe Road, SW12,
May 17.

Loose talk

From Mr Donald Bush

Sir, I am intrigued by the item "Gays ban stays" in your news summary (later editions, May 10).

I thought these instruments of torture had been out of favour for many decades.

Yours truly,
D. BUSH,
1 Court Drive,
Waddon, Croydon, Surrey,
May 10.

Additional problem

From Mrs M. C. Stanley

Sir, I have just heard on BBC News an example of a mathematics question for 11-year-olds.

A man buys a certain number of drinks at price x and a certain number of drinks at price y. What is the total of the amount he had to pay?

I seem to remember that men in my examination papers, even beyond the age of 11, only bought such things as oranges and apples, if they had time between emptying and filling baths.

Yours faithfully,
MARY STANLEY,
65 Coastal Road,
East Preston, West Sussex,
May 13.

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NEWS

Embassy staff go in spy tit-for-tat

Russia has asked Britain to withdraw four diplomats from Moscow within the next few days. In retaliation, four Russian embassy staff were asked to leave Britain within a fortnight.

The order, handed to Sir Andrew Wood, the British Ambassador, comes after Russian accusations almost two weeks ago that British embassy staff had had links with a Russian government official accused of espionage. Page 1

Howard condemns European court

Michael Howard delivered a tough attack on the European Court of Justice, raising the prospect of Britain clawing back powers from Brussels. Hours later, Kenneth Clarke warned Tory MPs against Europhobia. Page 1

Chill grips Chelsea

The return of winter has hampered preparations for next week's Chelsea Flower show. Page 1

Police may be sued

Police forces could be sued for negligence for failing to prevent crimes being committed following a decision by the European Commission of Human Rights. Page 2

Uproar at verdict

A millionaire auctioneer had to be led to safety from the Old Bailey amid uproar after being cleared of causing the death of a man by dangerous driving. Page 3

Cancer 'coincidence'

The father of one of three classmates who contracted leukaemia said he believed the illness was a coincidence. Page 4

Premier Pole

A Polish outsider has won the contest to design a landmark building at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. Page 5

Stephen Fry tells of suicidal feelings

Stephen Fry, the comedian, admitted that last year he had been close to suicide. Only the devastation he would have caused family and friends stopped him taking his life after he abandoned the West End play *Cell Mates*. Page 8

Paedophile register

Convicted paedophiles will be listed on a register set up under legislation to be introduced in Parliament in the autumn. Page 7

Drought 'mishandled'

Yorkshire Water failed to ensure that it had enough resources to meet demand last summer, an inquiry has found. Page 9

Hostage buried

Four freed British hostages wept for an Indonesian colleague as he was buried at a cemetery in Jakarta. Page 12

Suicide note apology

In a suicide note written the day before he died, the US Navy's top admiral apologised for wearing combat insignia to which he was not entitled. Page 15

Pope travels on

The Pope celebrates his 76th birthday today by doing what he likes best: travelling abroad. Page 16

NATURE NOTES

Chelsea perennials



Anenemies (*Mutualis incompatibilis*)
Antipathetic shoots from the same genus restrict growth of the whole plant. Separate at root.

OPINION

History's dispossessed: The absorption or subjugation of indigenous peoples by encroachers on their land is a tale as old as time. Page 21

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: We sceptics are warned to steer clear of heroes, but Morris comes close to being mine. Quite apart from his art, I love his confidence, his success, his melancholy. Page 20

ARTS

Library lessons: "Yes it hurt. No it still doesn't work. That sums up what the National Audit Office had to say about the British Library fiasco." Richard Morrison writes. Page 17

BUSINESS

Power: National Power confirmed plans to pay £1.18 billion of special dividends to shareholders and promised to consider buying back more shares. Page 25

SPORT

Cricket: At least half of England's World Cup squad may be cast aside for the Texaco Trophy series against India. Page 46

LETTERS

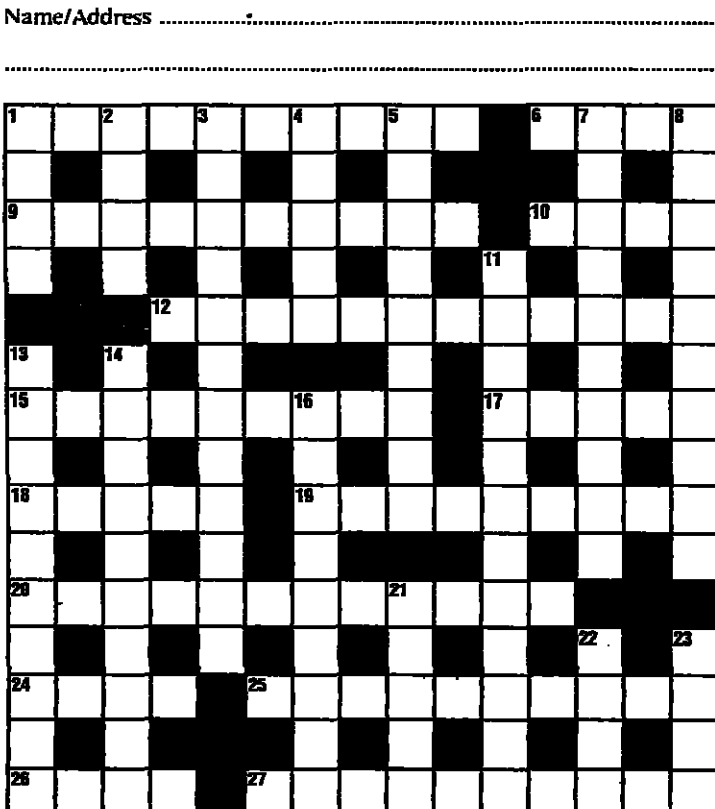
HIV sufferers and fertility treatment: wind farms; metal detecting; Tories in Ulster; living wills; supermarket loyalties. Page 21

OBITUARIES

Admiral Jeremy M. Boorda, US Chief of Naval Operations; Henry Clarke, fashion photographer. Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,171

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.



- ACROSS**
- Bound to record minutes, say, for part of the year (10).
 - Philosophical type saying why I function the wrong way (4).
 - Mould it in places as play material (10).
 - Centre of Russki events? (4).
 - Existing damage (4,2,6).
 - Keen to have one's say and take vital treatment (9).
 - Object of quest and bother, led by king (5).
 - Alice's intended, for instance, to save (5).
 - Verdict showing discrimination (9).
 - Potry Greek character thus providing classical entertainment (7,5).
 - One bird repelled these others (4).
 - Stolen and hard to move, as taps may be (3,3,4).
 - Heads off what we have no stomach for (4).
 - Upper hand in special case, note, held by Dickensian heroine (10).
- DOWN**
- Family group in Ireland for a month (4).
 - Shout from river rower produced (4).
 - Battled on in a terribly bad financial position for all of us? (8,4).
 - It's not said how one can be protected by diplomacy (5).
 - Dangerous subject, once my area of interest (9).
 - Began and spoke at length without a single drink (10).
 - Supervise exam I give - Latin, possibly (10).
 - Concentrating on one affair, and unlikely to marry? (6-6).
 - Diligence, for example, shown by one who trains players? (10).
 - Where junk's found making an impression among boat collection (4,6).
 - Bad ruling - judge questioning without using head (9).
 - Practice in university followed by man of learning (5).
 - Spent what's earned, about a sovereign (4).
 - Extreme characters in England greatly affected by anxiety (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,165

SURFING SWELLING
UNION AROUND
BASKETBOUNDED
ESAMMILIO
DOUBTESTOPFAST
IRLNTN
TEEMING GOULASH
OUEMII
RESOLVE RUBICON
TERLUO
CARD PROSPECTUS
LALLODYTI
ANNUAL FOOTING
NUMULTWNH
GAMEPLAN KNIGHT

Solution to Puzzle No 20,170

CONSORT RUBASOO
UNION AROUND
BASKETBOUNDED
ESAMMILIO
DOUBTESTOPFAST
IRLNTN
TEEMING GOULASH
OUEMII
RESOLVE RUBICON
TERLUO
CARD PROSPECTUS
LALLODYTI
ANNUAL FOOTING
NUMULTWNH
GAMEPLAN KNIGHT

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: D. L. Bates, Herham, Northumberland; J. Sles, Mandersley, Norfolk; C. D. Lewis, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan; S. Buchanan, Orphir, Orkney; R. Warren, Coventry.

TIMES WEATHERCAL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Region	Code	Forecast
Greater London	701	Greater London
Greater London	702	Greater London
Greater London	703	Greater London
Greater London	704	Greater London
Greater London	705	Greater London
Greater London	706	Greater London
Greater London	707	Greater London
Greater London	708	Greater London
Greater London	709	Greater London
Greater London	710	Greater London
Greater London	711	Greater London
Greater London	712	Greater London
Greater London	713	Greater London
Greater London	714	Greater London
Greater London	715	Greater London
Greater London	716	Greater London
Greater London	717	Greater London
Greater London	718	Greater London
Greater London	719	Greater London
Greater London	720	Greater London
Greater London	721	Greater London
Greater London	722	Greater London
Greater London	723	Greater London
Greater London	724	Greater London
Greater London	725	Greater London
Greater London	726	Greater London
Greater London	727	Greater London

Weathercall is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	732	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	733	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	734	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	735	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	736	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	737	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	738	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	739	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	740	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	741	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	742	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	743	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	744	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	745	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	746	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	747	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	748	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	749	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	750	London & SE traffic, roadworks

AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	751	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	752	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	753	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	754	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	755	London & SE traffic, roadworks
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London & SE traffic, roadworks	765	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	766	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	767	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	768	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	769	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	770	London & SE traffic, roadworks

AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGH TIDES

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	771	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	772	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	773	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	774	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	775	London & SE traffic, roadworks
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London & SE traffic, roadworks	786	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	787	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	788	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	789	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	790	London & SE traffic, roadworks

AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AFORECAST

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	791	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	792	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	793	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	794	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	795	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	796	London & SE traffic, roadworks
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London & SE traffic, roadworks	807	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	808	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	809	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	810	London & SE traffic, roadworks

AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AROUND BRITAIN

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	811	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	812	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	813	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	814	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	815	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	816	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	817	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	818	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	819	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	820	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	821	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	822	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	823	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	824	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	825	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	826	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	827	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	828	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	829	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	830	London & SE traffic, roadworks

AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

ABROAD

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	831	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	832	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	833	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	834	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	835	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	836	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	837	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	838	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	839	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	840	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	841	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	842	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	843	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	844	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	845	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	846	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	847	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	848	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	849	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	850	London & SE traffic, roadworks

AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

TORONTO OR NEW YORK

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	851	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	852	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	853	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	854	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	855	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	856	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	857	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	858	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	859	London & SE traffic, roadworks
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London & SE traffic, roadworks	863	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	864	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	865	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	866	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	867	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	868	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	869	London & SE traffic, roadworks
London & SE traffic, roadworks	870	London & SE traffic, roadworks

AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

FORECAST

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0330 401 followed by the code.